ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4

Dollywood says Jeremy wants Alessandra back

SPORTS /A24

Stormy World Cup: Portugal, England barge into Final 8

ACROSS / A13

Vizcaya 'jueteng' operators identified by Catholic bishop

WORLD / A19

Embattled East Timor prime minister quits

Iggy explains he had flat tire, not hangover

SA TOTOO LANG, HA?

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—REP. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. yesterday said he had a flat tire on his way to the airport on Sunday but denied he had kept

IGGY/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, June 27, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 199 P18 website: www.inq7.net

P25 wage increase derided, applauded

By Jerome Aning, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Ronnel Domingo

MODERATE AND MILITANT LABOR GROUPS YESterday greeted with derision the P25 increase in the minimum wage earners in Metro Manila, but Malacañang and big business groups applauded it as "reasonable."

The increase ordered by the Regional Tripartite

P25 WAGE/ A9

'Well done,' Pope pats GMA on back

POPE BENEDICT XVI stands next to President Macapagal-Arroyo as he holds a copy of the law abolishing the death penalty in the Philippines during a private audience at the Vatican.

AFP

Cites death penalty abolition

By Armand N. Nocum

ROME (VIA PLDT)—A pat on the back and the words "well done" from Pope Benedict XVI more than made the day of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose political opponents back home filed an impeachment complaint against her hours before she met with the Pontiff.

The President got the commendation from the leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics yesterday after she presented him with a copy of the law abolishing capital punishment in the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo on Saturday signed the law abolishing the death penalty, a move which her critics believed was meant to gain brownie points with the Vatican and the European Union. *(See related story on Page A3.)*

Handing the Pope a maroon booklet with the presidential seal, Ms Arroyo told Benedict: "This is my second gift to you—the abolition of the death

WELL DONE/ A6

Impeach complaint filed amid uncertainty

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

A CITIZEN-BACKED ATTEMPT IN Congress to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo formally began yesterday with more than enough artists and professionals signing the impeachment complaint but with little indication that it would result in a trial.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Rep. Ronaldo Zamora endorsed the citizens' complaint, giving the second impeachment move in two years against Ms Arroyo official cognizance in the House of Representatives.

But even in the opposition camp, there were doubts the move to oust the 59-year-old President would collect the required 79 signatures of congressmen to begin a trial in the Senate. There were fears this early that the complaint would be killed—like the opposition initiative junked by Ms Arroyo's majority allies in the House last year.

"Sad to say, the opposition has not come up with a unified strategy on how to finally seal the success of the impeachment complaint," said Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

"Everybody seems to be singing a different tune," said the daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. An opposition member, Imee Marcos failed to show up for the crucial vote last year on the impeachment complaint against the President that only got 51 votes.

Malacañang said it was not making a big deal out of the new case.

"We will just leave that to the President's lawyers and the members of the House of Representatives," said Ms Arroyo's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio. He said the House members would see in the new effort not only the "bereftness of any legal case against the President but also the harm and injustice that it will do to the rest of the country."

If there was any early consolation, it came with the official announcement by House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno that

IMPEACH/ A8

AT A GLANCE

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint filed yesterday against President Macapagal-Arroyo is practically a rehash of one lodged a year ago in the House of Representatives. It charged her with:

- **Culpable violation of the Constitution** in connection with the alleged rigging of the May 2004 presidential election.
- **Gross violation of human rights** when she "allowed, abetted and countenanced the killings of political dissenters and media practitioners."
- **Graft and corruption** in connection with P728-million fertilizer scam, the North Luzon Railway Project, spending the road users' tax to finance her poll campaign, and taking illegal gambling payoffs.
- **Betrayal of public trust** by declaring a state of national emergency, prohibiting officials from testifying in congressional hearings and issuing of the calibrated preemptive response policy to crack down on street protests.

Congregations assail 'culture of fear, death'

By Christian V. Esguerra

MEMBERS OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS congregations have expressed alarm over the ceaseless killings of Filipino political activists, journalists and church workers, saying the murders have bred "a culture of fear and death" in Asia's largest Roman Catholic country.

"We cannot remain silent ... To remain silent is to allow the vicious cycle of violence to continue in our midst. We must seek to intervene to end this vicious cycle," the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission said in a strongly worded statement released to the INQUIRER yesterday.

The commission is a desk of the Association of the Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), which represents congregations such as the Dominicans, Franciscans, Benedictines, Jesuits, Augustinians, Salesians and Lasallian and Marist brothers.

It voiced concern that the victims were being killed for their sociopolitical beliefs.

The commission was the latest major group to denounce the wave of killings, after similar

CONGREGATIONS / A8

3 Filipinos added to 'Nicole' ordeal, says witness

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

BEFORE "NICOLE" COULD FORmally lodge a rape complaint against a group of US Marines, she encountered three Filipinos who added to her ordeal—a woman doctor who sneered at her story, an eyewitness who initially denied having seen her, and a certain Ben Natividad who asked her to "just accept payment" for her ordeal.

Anna Liza Franco, stepsister of the complainant in the Subic rape case, gave this testimony when she returned to the witness stand yesterday and delivered an outburst apparently aimed at the four accused American Marines.

"Why can't you look me straight in the eye? (*Bakit di kayo makatingin ng straight?*)" Franco, 25, said at one point.

She did not say who she meant, but she was casting dagger looks in the direction of Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, the four accused in the alleged rape inside a van at Subic Bay on Nov. 1.

Franco's remark was not a response to a question, but sounded more like an expression of rage during her direct examination by Nicole's lawyer, Evalyn Ursua.

Franco had wept when she first testified on Friday, prompting Makati City Judge Benjamin Pozon to cut the proceedings short.

Her narration yesterday mainly dwelled on how her sister's case reached the desk of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO) and later involved agents of the US Naval Criminal Investigation Service.

The 15th witness for the prosecution was the first to describe Nicole's body after the alleged rape: Franco recalled seeing Nicole with "contusions" on one arm and on her knees when she changed clothes at the IIO.

3 FILIPINOS/ A8

WARREN Buffett (left), Melinda French Gates and Bill Gates stand together after the historic donation was announced.

AP

Buffett gives $37B to charity

WARREN E. BUFFETT, THE world's second richest man, is donating about $37 billion of his fortune to a foundation run by Bill Gates, the richest man, and four other philanthropies run by members of the Buffett family starting July.

The donations represent a singular and historic act of charitable giving that vaults Buffett into the top tier of industrialists and entrepreneurs like Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller Sr., Henry Ford, J. Paul Getty, W.K. Kellogg and Gates himself, whose fortunes have endowed some of the world's richest private foundations.

Sunday's announcement by Buffett, the chair of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., came just days after Gates, the chair of Microsoft, said he would move away from his day-to-day role at the software giant to focus more on charity work.

Buffett plans to give away 85 percent of his fortune, or about $37 billion, all in Berkshire stock. Of that amount, he will channel the greatest share, about $31 billion, into the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Buffett's donation is the largest commitment to a philanthropic cause ever made by one person in the United States, according to Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"Even if you look at what Rockefeller and Carnegie gave historically—even if you do it in today's numbers—it doesn't come close to that," Palmer said.

Buffett, 75, is worth an estimated $44 billion, according to Forbes magazine, which ranks Gates, 50, as the world's richest man with a net worth of $50 billion.

Buffett and Gates have be-

BUFFETT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Western Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE V PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/06/26/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Stormy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Stormy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Arroyos claim saints for allies

Armand N. Nocum

ROME, ITALY (VIA PLDT)—IN THE ONGOING battle of prayer between those who want the President Macapagal-Arroyo out and those who want her to stay in power, Ms Arroyo is said to have strong heavenly allies.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo said St. Theresa of Avila and two other candidates for sainthood would be interceding for the besieged Arroyo administration.

The Arroyo brothers, interviewed by the INQUIRER on the plane en route to Rome, where the President is on an official visit, claimed that the Arroyo, Tuason and Pidal clans have three saints in the family.

"We pray to them in times of trouble," Mike said of St. Theresa of Avila, who he claimed, had a direct lineage to the Tuason and Arroyo clan of Avila, Spain.

Mike further claimed that two nuns, Maria Teresa Arroyo y Lacson and Rosario Arroyo y Pidal, were up for beatification in the Vatican.

Pamphlets provided by Juris Soliman of the Office of the First Gentleman showed that when the bodies of the Arroyo nuns were exhumed, they were found "incorrupted." Both nuns were said to have led saintly lives.

According to the pamphlets, Mother Rosario was born in Molo, Iloilo City to "wealthy and pious parents Don Ignacio Arroyo (grandfather of Mike Arroyo) and Doña Maria Pidal."

Mother Rosario founded the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary on Feb. 18, 1927. She died of heart failure in 1957 and was buried in Molo cemetery.

Maria Teresa, who died in Spain, was described by Iggy as the "sister of my father, Ignacio Arroyo, [so] she's a lot closer to our family."

"We'll be adding a few more saints to our family," the congressman from Negros Occidental said on the possible beatification of the two nuns.

Asked whether it was through the intercession of St. Theresa and the two saintly nuns that Ms Arroyo had managed to hang on to power and to survive a string of crises in her three-year administration, Iggy said: "I believe so. You know when you pray to heaven, you need a lot of intercession. The [saints] will intercede for you, God will enlighten you and help you."

Asked if the Arroyo family depended on divine intercession to help the President weather a political storm, Iggy said: "Not really. We leave it to God's will. He wills for everything to happen. Nothing happens if He does not will it. And that is one of the reasons why the President is still there because I think God really wants her to be there."

He added that the Arroyo family often prayed to St. Theresa and the two saintly nuns hoping that people would understand that the President had to make unpopular decisions to make the lives of the Filipino better.

"It will be understood in time. Three years is not enough, especially for the projects and policies of the President to be realized and accomplished. We pray that people will understand our motives," Iggy said.

And his prayers for the President?

"We always ask that the President be enlightened [so she could] do good work... She's doing very well but in politics, there are always critics," he said.

He added that he was not sure if the beatification of the two Arroyo nuns would be discussed during the President's meeting with Pope Benedict XVI which was scheduled today.

In her week-long official trip to Rome and Spain, Ms Arroyo, who leads a 55-man delegation, will also meet with Italian President Georgio Napolitano, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sonia of Spain and Spanish President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

MOUNT Everest conquerors Erwin Pastor Emata and Leo Oracion climb Mt. Manalmon in San Miguel, Bulacan, Monday to dramatize campaign to save the Biak na Bato National Park.

EDWIN BACASMAS

FROM 29,035 FEET TO 525 FEET

'Ain't no mountain low enough'

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, Bulacan—Contrary to the popular song, for Mt. Everest conquerors Leo Oracion and Erwin Emata there "ain't no mountain low enough."

The two, who conquered the world's highest peak at 29,035 feet last month, joined 100 Bulacan officials and environmentalists in an easy trek up 525-ft Mt. Manalmon in the Biak-na-Bato mountain range here on Monday.

It took Oracion and Emata 35 minutes to summit Manalmon, while it took the other trekkers one-and-a-half hours. It had taken the two several days to summit Everest and months before that to acclimatize themselves to the severe weather conditions.

Oracion, who climbed Biak-na-Bato for the third time, said the group was concerned about the environment and the protection of the country's mountain ranges.

"Our world is the mountain. Our life revolves around it. Biak-na-Bato is not a simple mountain but a historical landmark," he said.

"Perhaps if Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, who encamped here during the revolution, were alive today he would be very angry at the quarrying operations," he said, referring to the controversial operations of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. on Mt. Nabio, another peak in the Biak-na-Bato mountain range.

At the end of the climb, the participants signed a declaration to protect the Biak-na-Bato national park and to put a stop to the mining activities in the area.

Marble quarrying operations at Biak-na-Bato had been ordered stopped by the courts for several years now.

On Saturday, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said he was simply carrying out a status quo order on Rosemoor's quarrying operations when he allowed the firm to transport the marble previously carved from the mountain out of the park for export.

The status quo order would be in effect while government experts studied the legal aspects of Rosemoor's marble quarrying operations at the park.

Reyes said the order did not nullify the ore transport permit of Rosemoor that covered the hauling of almost 800 cubic meters of marble boulders.

Chief Cha-cha proponent admits Binay, JV 'winning' war

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHIEF PROPONENT OF Charter change via a people's initiative may have met his match, or matches as it were.

Lawyer Raul Lambino of the pro-Cha-cha group Sigaw ng Bayan said yesterday opposition leaders Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito seemed to be winning the war over Cha-cha through the signature campaign.

Lambino said the only legislative districts where his group had failed to secure the signatures of three percent of the registered voters were in Makati and San Juan.

"I take my hat off to Mayor Binay and Mayor Ejercito. I guess they are just doing their jobs as opposition leaders and they are doing a good job of it," Lambino told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Under the 1987 Constitution, one of the modes for amending the Charter is a people's initiative which requires the signatures of 12 percent of the registered voters nationwide and three percent of the registered voters in each of the country's 213 legislative districts.

"You miss one legislative district and you don't have a people's initiative," Lambino said.

Lambino said Sigaw ng Bayan was about to meet the 12-percent registered voters nationwide and three-percent district voters requirement.

"We already have six million verified signatures, more than the 12 percent needed nationwide. But we have yet to reach the three percent needed in a few legislative districts."

Asked what these districts were, Lambino said: "These include the two districts in Makati City and (the one in) San Juan."

"There are no other districts where we have yet to reach three percent," he added.

The Arroyo administration is pushing the people's initiative mode of amending the Constitution after it appeared Congress was not going to pull off the constituent assembly mode which would have seen its members sitting as delegates.

The constitutional convention mode would entail a separate election of delegates and would be the most expensive, its critics had claimed.

At stake is the shift to a parliamentary form of government and the lifting of certain economic and political provisions in the present Constitution.

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Davao NGO receives $179,000 US grant

By Nikko Dizon

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT has provided a grant of $179,000 (P9.5 million) to help a Philippine non-governmental organization expand its halfway house operations to help victims of human trafficking.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney signed the grant for the Visayan Forum Foundation (VFF) during her visit to the NGO's office in Davao last Friday.

The grant aims "to help expand halfway house operations for victims of trafficking in persons," the US embassy said in a statement released over the weekend.

"The American people have supported VFF's efforts through several grants over the past five years to support anti-trafficking efforts," the embassy said.

The VFF halfway homes were built by the Philippine Ports Authority in Manila, Davao City, Batangas and Sorsogon.

The embassy said these homes had provided protective services to victims of human trafficking, considered a modern-day slavery that includes forced prostitution, sex trafficking and child labor.

Only last month, the US removed the Philippines from its human trafficking watch list, citing the country's progress in addressing this global problem.

However, the US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons" report noted that the Philippines still remained a source, transit and destination for men, women and children trafficked for sex trade or forced labor.

The Philippines was placed in the Tier 2 ranking of the report, which meant that the country had not fully complied with minimum international standards but was making significant efforts to combat human trafficking.

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GAY PRIDE MARCH
A member of Pro-Gay Philippines appeals for an end to homophobia during a march inside the UP Diliman campus Monday as part of the international celebration of Gay and Lesbian Pride March. RAFFY LERMA

PNP to get P300M from anti-Red fund

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice will get a sizable chunk—nearly a third—of the P1 billion allocated by the Arroyo administration to crush the communist insurgency in the countryside, officials said.

In a statement, the Department of Interior and Local Government said the PNP would get P300 million to "fortify soft targets or ill-equipped police stations."

Top police officials welcomed the fund, saying it would definitely boost the PNP's anti-insurgency drive.

Deputy chief for administration Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon said it would also help fast-track the shift of the organization's role from support to a more direct hand in internal security operations or ISOs.

It is the Armed Forces of the Philippines that currently carries out ISOs.

The police had clamored for a bigger piece of the action against communist rebels after a series of raids by the New People's Army on their far-flung outposts.

Calderon said the police would discuss in the coming days how best to use the fund.

"The bulk would most likely go to the most affected areas," he said, referring to places considered hotbeds of the communist insurgency.

These include Central and Southern Luzon, the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region, Bicol and the Caraga regions, and Samar province.

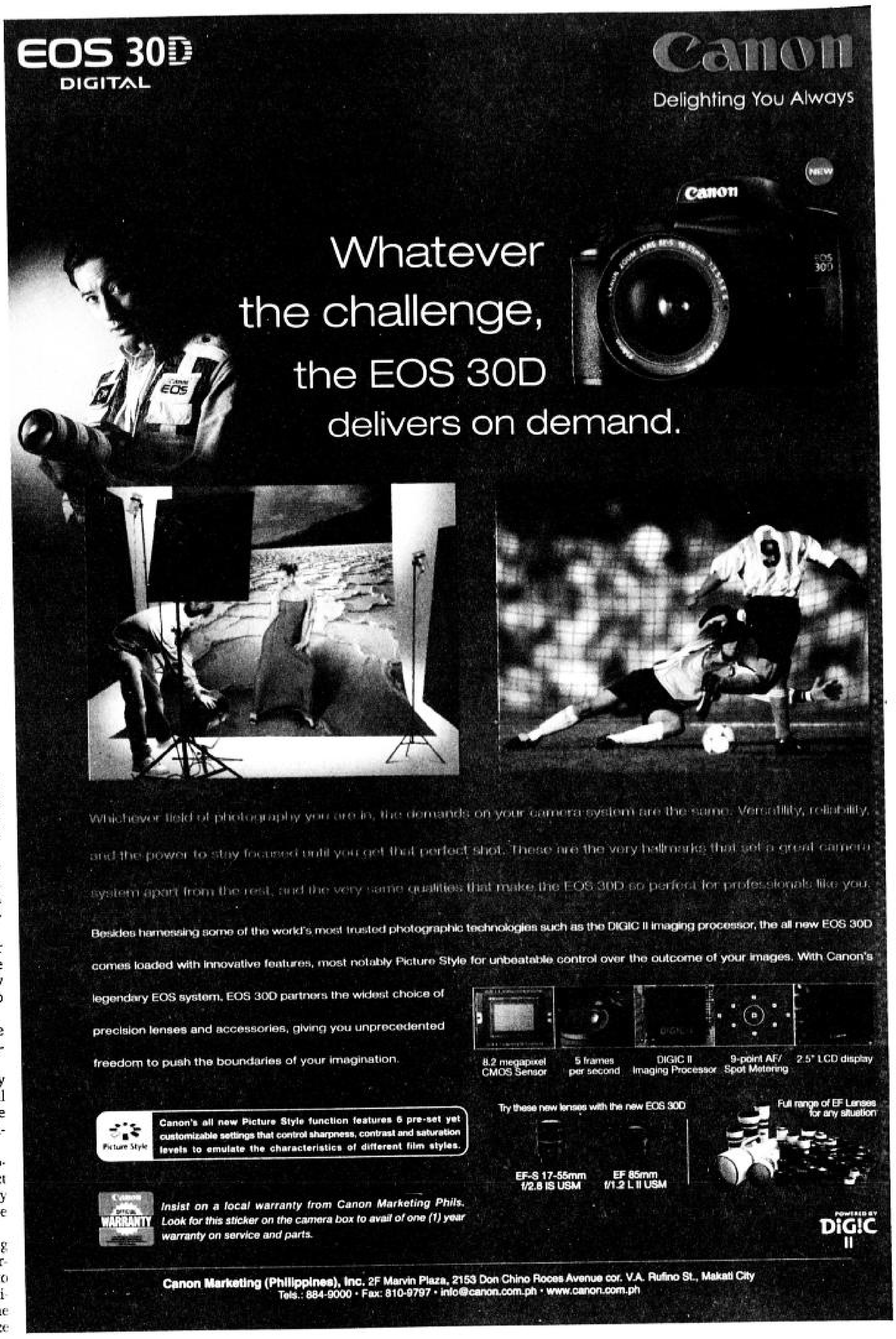
PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the money might be used to buy equipment that is "necessary to fight the insurgency."

He pointed out the police were equipped to fight crime, not a rebellion.

Police officials said the money could also be used to train special units like the Special Action Force and mobile groups to fight the insurgency.

The paradigm shift in the police's role from support to direct involvement in internal security operations would entail intensive training, they said.

"After so many years of being out of the loop in the anti-insurgency (campaign), you have to do a lot of homework," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.



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EU lauds RP decision to kill death penalty law

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—The European Union said Monday it "warmly welcomes" the Philippines' decision to abolish the death penalty, calling it a key step toward greater human rights.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed legislation on Saturday outlawing capital punishment in the Philippines, and "the European Union strongly hopes that this decision will encourage other countries in the region to follow suit," the 25-nation bloc said in a statement.

"The European Union considers that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights," said the statement issued by Austria, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

The EU reaffirmed "its objective of working toward the universal abolition of the death penalty."

Ms Arroyo is currently on a seven-day trip to Europe. *AP*

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Outgoing AFP chief visits camps to bid troops farewell

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SENGA

OUTGOING ARMED FORCES of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga has begun his nostalgic exit calls on military camps around the country as he prepares to step down next month.

It is traditional for outgoing military chiefs to make a final round of the military camps, especially those they had been assigned to, to bid the troops farewell.

Senga's weekend trip to AFP Western Command headquarters in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan with his family was part of the series of exit calls, the military spokesperson said.

"He's starting to make his rounds, his exit call on the troops," said Col. Tristan Kison, head of the AFP Public Information Office.

From Wescom, Senga headed to Pagasa Island where he took part in a "boodle fight" or common lunch with the soldiers stationed there.

Pagasa is the island occupied by the Philippines in the disputed Spratlys island chain in the South China Sea.

Senga has also visited the 701st Infantry Brigade based in Davao, where he served as brigade commander before being pulled out by then AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes to serve as the military spokesperson in 2001.

Senga is expected to continue his rounds in the coming days.

As part of another tradition, Senga has also started paying farewell calls on his counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

He has made visits to Brunei, Vietnam and China, one of Asean's dialogue partners.

Senga will step down on July 21 when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56. He would have served as AFP chief of staff for less than a year, having assumed the post last Aug. 15.

It is possible President Macapagal-Arroyo would extend his term.

Senga's predecessor, Gen. Efren Abu, was supposed to retire on June 24, 2005, but his term was extended for two months after the "Hello Garci" controversy exploded and threw the administration into disarray.

Despite the extra two months, however, Abu was not able to satisfactorily lay to rest the issue of the military's alleged involvement in the rigging of the 2004 elections in favor of Ms Arroyo.

Senga is likewise stepping down with the same issue still hanging over the military, after the so-called Mayuga report on the involvement of ranking military officers in the alleged election fraud was kept from the public.

The wiretapping of the President and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano allegedly conducted by the military intelligence service also was never investigated. The alleged plot by elite military units to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo last Feb. 24 also remains unresolved.

FOCUS ON CEBU, LANAO DEL SUR

De Castro, Legarda jointly ask SC to stop recount of Pampanga votes

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO AND FORmer Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday jointly asked the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to suspend the recount of the votes for vice president from Pampanga in the 2004 elections so they could focus on the ballots from Cebu and Lanao del Sur.

A joint motion to suspend the revision proceedings was filed by De Castro's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, before the PET. Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, told the INQUIRER he did not object so as not to waste his client's time and money.

"It was not our proposal but attorney Macalintal's. We did not pose any objection. It's better that we show a substantial recovery of votes in Cebu first, and we are hoping to recover at least 300,000 votes there," Brillantes said.

He said that if Legarda failed to recover at least 300,000 votes in Cebu alone, then he would recommend that she drop her election protest against De Castro.

"It would be a very expensive exercise for Legarda to move further if that happened but we are confident that we would be able to achieve that [recover the votes]," Brillantes said, noting that De Castro's 800,000 vote lead over Legarda had primarily come from Cebu.

Last week, Macalintal asked the PET to make a partial determination on the election protest filed by Legarda based on the results of the revision of ballots in Cebu and the re-canvass of election returns in Lanao del Sur.

Brillantes said that Legarda had agreed to withdraw her protest over at least six municipalities of Lanao del Sur whose election returns were missing and could not be produced by the House of Representatives which had custody of the documents.

In their joint motion, Brillantes and Macalintal said: "It is respectfully prayed that a partial determination of the instant protest be made based on the results of the revision of the ballots from the province of Cebu and the results of the re-canvass of election returns of Lanao del Sur."

They also asked that a preliminary hearing or conference be conducted for the partial determination of the protest.

Legarda has said electoral fraud was committed in 3,769 precincts in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

She said fraud also occurred in 13,293 precincts in Cebu, which also gave President Macapagal-Arroyo her big margin over the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. Legarda was Poe's running mate. She earlier said she should have won over De Castro by at least 1.1 million votes. *With Leila B. Salaverria*

FRIENDLY FOES. Lawyers Romulo Macalintal and Sixto Brillantes meet the press shortly after filing a joint motion to suspend revision proceedings at the Supreme Court. REM ZAMORA

DepEd forms probe team to investigate Palaro cheats

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) central office has formed its own team to investigate the alleged anomalies in the last Palarong Pambansa.

Education Officer in Charge Fe Hidalgo said Undersecretaries Franklin Sunga and Antonio Inocentes had been tasked to head the investigative team composed of other lawyers in the department.

The team will probe allegations that some teams had fielded players who were overaged and that some names in the players' roster had been substituted.

Hidalgo recently signed DepEd Memorandum No. 207 which created the team.

"While the organizing committee is undertaking an investigation into the alleged anomalies during the games, this office shall as well benefit from an independent inquiry that ensures a thorough and objective investigation into the matter," Hidalgo said in the memorandum.

The panel will take a second look at the documents submitted by the players, including their birth certificates, to determine their real and exact age. Members of the team will also interview students, parents and all those involved in the alleged cheating as part of its data gathering.

Representatives of all those involved and members of media will be invited to observe the conduct of the investigation.

The team has been directed to submit its findings to Hidalgo not later than June 30.

Controversy broke during the Palarong Pambansa when parents of players in the National Capital Region team complained that some of the players in Calabarzon and Eastern Visayas teams were overaged.

The parents sent Hidalgo a letter of complaint about the cheating.

Later, the mother of one of the Calabarzon baseball players reportedly admitted on national TV that her son was already 19 years old, six years over the age limit in the elementary division.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 27, 2006
12th Week in Ordinary Time
Cyril of Alexandria

1st Reading: 2 K 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-35, 36

Gospel: Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, or throw your pearls to the pigs: they might trample on them and even turn on you and tear you to pieces.

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many go that way. How narrow is the gate that leads to life and how rough the road; few there are who find it."

Commentary

History impinges on Israel, and the king who has not repented prays for deliverance. But Isaiah sends word to the king that God has heard his prayer for now and that there will be a remnant that lives to honor God, but it is the zeal of the Lord that does this, not the king or his army. God shields the city for the sake of those who have been faithful in the past. Jesus too is pushing his disciples to be wary of the ways of the world and to keep the treasure he shares with them from those who would not appreciate it and would destroy it. The way we are offered is through a narrow gate (Jesus and the cross) but it begins with treating others as you would be treated in those circumstances. We do live in history.

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NOTICE

The Philippine Electricity Market Corporation gives notice that the structure and level of the market fees for the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (the "WESM") was approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission in its Decision dated 22 June 2006 in ERC Case No. 2005-048 RC entitled "In the Matter of the Application for the Approval of the Structure and Level of Market Fees for the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market".

This Notice is made pursuant to the requirements of publication under Section 9, Rule 9 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

As approved, the market fees for the WESM are as follows:

1. Market Registration Fees shall be imposed upon all WESM participants in an annual fixed fee rate of Php 50,000.00 and variable fee to cover additional registration requirements of the market participants;
2. Market Transaction Fees in the amount of Php 433,624,276.00 to cover the budgetary requirements of the WESM for CY 2006.

   The total amount of Market Transaction Fees will be apportioned among the generators participating in the WESM according to the volume of their scheduled transactions using the following rate:

   $$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Annual Market Transaction Fees (Php)/12}}{\text{Total Generation Metered Quantity for the month (kWh)}} = \text{Php/kWh}$$

   The resulting rate shall be multiplied by the total metered quantity of each generator to arrive at their market fees payable.

   A copy of the Decision may be downloaded at the ERC website at www.erc.gov.ph or from the Market Information website at www.wesm.ph or from the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation, 18th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

(PDI - June 27, 2006)

SC upholds Palace authority over Diwalwal mines

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ruled that the executive branch has full control of the mining operations in the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area.

Several mining corporations had staked a claim on the area, but the high court said these claims were rendered moot with the issuance of Proclamation 297 in 2002, which declared 8,100 hectares in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, as a mineral reservation and an environmentally critical area.

After proclamation was issued, the environment secretary declared an emergency in the Diwalwal gold rush area and had mining operations stopped.

"The issue on who has priority right over the disputed area is deemed overtaken by the above subsequent developments," the Supreme Court said in its 32-page decision. "It is now up to the executive department whether to take the first option, i.e., to undertake directly the mining operations of the Diwalwal Gold Rush Area."

The high tribunal also said that the state could not be stopped from directly taking over the mines "if it is the only plausible remedy in sight to the gnawing complexities generated by the gold rush."

The government could also award the mining operations to private entities, including Apex Mining Company and the Balite Communal Portal Mining Cooperative that earlier said they had rights over the area, the Supreme Court ruled. "The exercise of this prerogative lies with the Executive Department over which courts will not interfere."

Apex said it had rights over the Diwalwal gold rush area over Marcopper Mining Corporation (MMC) or its subsidiary, Southeast Mindanao Gold Mining Corporation (SEM), since Apex was the first to record mining claims in the area.

Nevertheless, MMC had been granted an exploration permit for the area.

Balite, on the other hand, said its presence in the small-scale mining areas had entitled it to file a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA). It added that its application for an MPSA should be given preference over that of SEM.

Meanwhile, the high tribunal partially reversed a Court of Appeals decision which voided the transfer of the MMC's exploration permit in Mt. Diwalwal to SEM in 1994.

The transfer was void because the permit was for the exclusive use of MMC or its duly authorized agents. The high court said SEM had not proven that it was MMC's duly authorized agent.

"SEM did not claim nor submit proof that it is the designated agent of MMC to represent the latter in its business dealings or undertakings. SEM cannot, therefore, be considered as an agent of MMC which can use EP 133 and benefit from it," the decision read.

The Supreme Court also said the exploration permit had expired on July 1994 and could not be renewed.

But the high tribunal upheld the appellate court's finding that the Department Administrative Order (DAO) 66 issued in 1991 by former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., declaring 729 hectares of the Agusan-Davao-Surigao Forest Reserve as open to small-scale mining, was illegal.

"The power to withdraw lands from forest reserves and to declare the same as an open area for mining operations resides in the President," the Supreme Court said.

PHILIP Piccio, head of the group Parents Enabling Parents, shows the checks received from former Congressman Mark Jimenez. REM ZAMORA

Planholders get 'MJ' checks

THE PARENTS ENABLING PARENTS COALITION Inc. (PEPCI) distributed yesterday around 1,000 checks to qualified planholders of troubled pre-need firms.

The funds came from the P50-million donation of businessman and former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to PEPCI.

The checks were distributed at a fast food restaurant on Jupiter Street in Makati City that quickly filled up with about 100 planholders of the different pre-need firms like College Assurance Plan, Pacific Plans, The Professional Group and Platinum Plans.

The planholders came from all over Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"Our dreams were shattered when these companies turned their backs on us. Now we are giving each other some hope that the education of our children will be continued so they can graduate. As parents, that's all we ever wanted," Philip Piccio, PEPCI president, told the INQUIRER.

Piccio estimated about 600 planholders from Metro Manila and nearby areas qualified for the money donated by Jimenez.

In his remarks to the planholders before the distribution, Piccio told them to be "proactive" and defend their rights. "We must wake up and be counted. Join us in our fight for our children's education."

Piccio also appealed to other businessmen to help the planholders. "We are appealing to businessmen and to others to please help us help these people."

He said some 1.1 million students were still affected by the pre-need controversy. *Alcuin Papa*

Cops poised to bust tax scam ring

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE ARE CLOSE TO BUSTING A SYNDICATE that has been allegedly defrauding the Bureau of Customs of millions of pesos in unpaid taxes.

The syndicate, according to officials, allegedly includes Customs officers, bank officers and brokers.

Police said they had evidence to prove that some importers were allegedly working with Customs officers by using credit certificates as payment for import duties.

These transactions had supposedly defrauded the government of P52 million in duties and taxes, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said in a statement.

The CIDG undertook a two-month investigation of the transactions upon the request of BOC-Enforcement and Security Service head Nestorio Gualberto.

Customs chief Napoleon Morales had deputized the CIDG to go after people behind the supposed anomalies, said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos.

"They paid using fake [tax credit] certificates, [and even used] validation machines. Then they erased the entries in the BOC's computer system to cover their tracks," De los Santos said.

"We are looking deep into the syndicate's maneuvering," he said, adding that the police investigation "will hit many people."

Last week, the police raided several stores in Metro Manila based on suspicions that the floor tiles being sold there had been illegally imported from China.

The CIDG seized documents, computer terminals, hard disks, diskettes and compact discs, receipts and bank transaction records during the simultaneous raids.

Sue Bolante for fertilizer scam, Ombudsman urged

By TJ Burgonio

TO SHOW THAT GOVERNMENT IS BENT ON rooting out corruption, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez should prosecute agriculture officials implicated in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, including Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, senators said yesterday.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the government's fresh anti-corruption campaign would come under a cloud of doubt if Bolante would be spared from criminal prosecution.

"The Ombudsman must take the next step to prosecute the suspects, suspend them [as the case may be], and cause their conviction. Otherwise, the announced drive of the President would amount to nothing," Pimentel said in a statement.

Bolante, former Agriculture undersecretary, had been tagged as the brains in the alleged mismanagement of the fertilizer fund in the run-up to the May 2004 presidential elections.

He managed to skip the Senate inquiry into the scam by the agriculture committee, which had recommended to the Ombudsman the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other current agriculture officials.

Pimentel said he had received information that Bolante had flown into the country after several months of staying in the United States, "taking advantage of the current recess of Congress to evade an arrest order issued against him by the Senate."

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‘Well done,’ Pope pats GMA on back

From page A1

penalty law. These two gifts are the expressions of faith of the Filipino people."

Before giving the copy of the law abolishing the death penalty, Ms Arroyo gave the Pope a replica of a foot-high statue of Our Lady of Guidance, which she said was the oldest image of the Lady in the Philippines. The Lady is enshrined in Ermita, Manila.

In turn, the Pope presented Ms Arroyo and her delegation, made up mostly of family members, with coins of the Pontificate for the men and for the women, he gave rosaries with a prayer which was written by the Pope himself. The prayer was titled "The Love of the Lord."

Blessing

Ms Arroyo emerged from her 20-minute talk with the Pope claiming that she had virtually gotten his blessing for the way she ran the government and for pursuing policies in line with Catholic teachings.

"The Pope is very supportive and encouraging," she said, adding that a big part of the talk was about the situation in the Philippines.

"He loves the Philippines and is happy about our policies, which are attuned to the teachings of the Church," Ms Arroyo said in an interview with government television station NBN 4.

She said these policies included the abolition of the death penalty law, the nonpassage of the divorce law, and the preferential option for the poor.

Ms Arroyo noted that the Pope led their conversation and that he was very knowledgeable about and interested in what was happening in the Philippines.

Meddling

"I'm encouraged by his comments. He knows about issues in the country. It's very inspiring and he's very supportive of our policies and our work for the poor," the President said as she revealed that she had invited the Pope to visit the country.

The Pope does not look kindly on the alleged meddling of the Church in Philippine affairs, said Ms Arroyo, who has been the target of criticisms from certain Filipino bishops.

She said she got this impression after she received a copy of an encyclical on the Church and justice which, according to her, spoke of "the role of the Church in the search for justice."

It also "clearly proposes a good relationship between the Church and State," she said.

Option for the poor

The encyclical clearly stated that the "Church should avoid politicking in its actions. It should help uplift the plight of the poor and eradicate poverty," the President said.

Ms Arroyo said the government was already helping the Church accomplish its "preferential option for the poor."

The President, who wore a black dress, was accompanied by the First Gentleman, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and his wife Lovely Rose, and Leonida Vera, Philippine ambassador to the Holy See.

Dato Arroyo, a son of the President, his wife Victoria and their daughter Eva Victoria were also part of the delegation.

Also accompanying them were Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, and Juris Soliman, the chief of staff of the First Gentleman.

The President was welcomed during a brief ceremony by Swiss Guards and officials of the Vatican led by Archbishop James Fowley.

Hello

The Pope initially met the delegation at the room of Saints Peter and Paul, with the President greeting him: "Hello, Holy Father."

To that, the Pope replied: "Welcome, it's an honor."

Following a brief photo session, the Pope and Ms Arroyo repaired to the Papal Library for their meeting, which lasted 20 minutes.

The President's delegation with Filipino journalists in attendance were not allowed to enter the room where the Pope and Ms Arroyo had their conversation.

Sainthood

Hours before the meeting, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the sainthood of two Filipinos and the designation of more cardinals in the Philippines were expected to be raised by Ms Arroyo in her audience with the Pope.

"We have two pending applications for sainthood. We have already beatified Mother Ignacia and Pedro Calungsod. Maybe she will work for the sainthood of the two beatified Filipinos," Bunye told reporters.

The Philippines already has a saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, who was canonized on Oct. 18, 1987, during the papacy of John Paul II, predecessor of Benedict XVI. Ruiz was a missionary tortured and killed in Japan in 1637.

Calungsod was beatified on March 5, 2000. Calungsod, a teenage helper of the Jesuits, was murdered in Guam in 1672.

Ignacia was the founder of the RVM (Religious of the Virgin Mary) congregation. She, however, had not yet been beatified, according to the RVM website.

Bunye expressed surprise at the revelation of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo that the President was also working for the beatification of two nuns from the Tuason and Arroyo clans of Iloilo. *(See story on Page A2.)*

"She (also) will take up the naming by the Pope of more cardinals in the Philippines because if we consider the fact that the Philippines is the biggest Catholic country in Asia, proportionately we should have more cardinals in the College of Cardinals," Bunye said.

The Philippines has three cardinals—Gaudencio Rosales of the Archdiocese of Manila, Ricardo Vidal of the Archdiocese of Cebu and Jose Sanchez, Emeritus of Rome.

Ms Arroyo arrived in the Eternal City at 6 p.m. on Sunday with the intention of advancing the country's religious and economic interests in a weeklong official trip to Europe.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by Archbishop Frambo, Vatican representative, upon her arrival at the Ciampino Airport in Rome.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Iggy explains he had flat tire, not hangover

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo waiting and that he had delayed her flight to Rome.

Iggy Arroyo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from the Italian capital that his sister-in-law had met with her Cabinet at the Presidential Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and had just boarded the plane when he arrived.

He said a tire on his Ford Expedition blew along Edsa and he did not have security escorts to fix it or a separate vehicle to whisk him to Naia.

"I called to let them (President Arroyo's staff) know at the airport that I had a flat tire and that if I could not make it to just leave me," he said.

Airline and airport sources told the INQUIRER that the President waited for more than five minutes for her brother-in-law inside Philippine Airlines Flight PR-001, delaying the departure of the 133-member presidential party on a seven-day European trip.

Protocol dictates that the President should always be the last passenger to board the aircraft on official trips.

In fact, the departure ceremonies for the President at the Naia gallery were over and the government officials who had seen her off were already returning to the terminal's presidential lounge when Iggy Arroyo arrived.

Witnesses said the 55-year-old congressman from Negros Occidental looked like he was nursing a hangover after a night of merrymaking when he staggered into the airport. His hair was described as disheveled, his eyes bloodshot and his left pants leg was tucked into a sock.

Common cold?

A staff member earlier said Iggy Arroyo had a cold and had not been in good shape since Friday.

Explaining the red eyes, Iggy said he had slept late and he had just taken a shower.

"The next time I go with the President early in the morning maybe I should take a bath with goggles so my eyes don't get red," he joked.

Iggy said he would be with the President's party later today for the meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

The congressman, a magnet for presidential controversies like the First Gentleman, said the Arroyos had a connection to St. Therese of Avila and that the family had two relatives who were candidates for beatification. *(See story on Page A2)*.

He did not say he might also be a candidate for sainthood, but he stressed that he had not been drinking and had not done so for a year.

'Glad you're here'

Iggy Arroyo said he arrived at the airport just after the President had gotten on the aircraft. "When she saw me she said, 'Glad you're here. How's the flat tire,'" he said.

Iggy also denied that his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, had barked at him, "*Ikaw talaga*" when he stepped inside the plane.

"In fact, he hugged me and said, 'Glad you could make it.'"

Buffett gives $37B to charity

From page A1

come extremely close business associates and bridge partners since they met in 1991. Buffett also sits on the board of the Washington Post Inc. with Gates' wife Melinda.

In a letter to the Gates couple, Buffett wrote: "You have committed yourselves to a few extraordinarily important but underfunded issues, a policy that I believe offers the highest probability of your achieving goals of great consequence."

Awed by decision

"We are awed by our friend Warren Buffett's decision to use his fortune to address the world's most challenging inequities, and we are humbled that he has chosen to direct a large portion of it to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation," the Gates couple said in a statement on their foundation's website.

"Warren has not only an amazing intellect but also a strong sense of justice. Warren's wisdom will help us do a better job and make it more fun at the same time," the couple added.

Theirs is the largest US grant-making foundation, with current assets of almost $30 billion, and Buffett's massive contribution may permanently solidify that philanthropy's standing as the biggest and most influential organization of its kind.

The immense size of the Gates Foundation's assets as a result of the partnership also becomes apparent when compared with those of the second largest charitable foundation in the United States—the Ford Foundation with its endowment of $11.6 billion—and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) with its $610-million budget for 2004.

Buffett's first gift of $1.5 billion to the Gates Foundation would effectively double its annual spending power. In 2005, it spent $1.36 billion in fighting diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, in developing countries and to education and library technology in the United States.

Significant catch

But Buffett's donation comes with a significant catch. Buffett's contribution will not be made all at once, but rather in smaller annual increments.

Buffett also wants all his money to be distributed in the year it is donated, not added to the foundation's assets for future giving. Moreover, the distribution could change in an as yet unspecified way if Buffett, who will become a trustee of the Seattle-based foundation, dies before the entire sum is transferred.

The terms of the donation also require the continued active participation of at least one of the Gates couple in the policymaking and administration of the foundation for the payments to continue.

In a letter to the Gates Foundation, Buffett said he would set aside 10 million shares of Berkshire Class B common stock for the foundation. Based on the stock's per-share price of $3,071.01 as of Friday, the total amount for the foundation comes to about $31 billion.

Buffett will also donate about $6 billion in Berkshire stock to three separate foundations each run by one of his three children, and the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, which is named after Buffett's late wife.

Buffett plans to give the foundations 5 percent of his total pledge each year in July for the rest of his life.

Buffett took over Berkshire in 1965 and transformed it from a struggling textile maker into a $141.8-billion company with investments in undervalued securities and purchases of well-managed, easy-to-understand businesses.

Its stock investments include blue-chip names such as Coca-Cola Co. and Procter & Gamble Co. Berkshire also owns about 50 businesses, including Geico auto insurance, Benjamin Moore paint and Dairy Queen ice cream.

Change of mind

Buffett had previously insisted that he would wait until his death before making a sizeable charitable bequest. But he told Fortune magazine that the death of his wife Susan in 2004, his admiration for the Gates couple and his certainty about how to dispose of his wealth caused him to "get going" now.

Buffett's health has been the subject of speculation. He has said a succession plan is in place at Berkshire but has refused to name a successor.

"My doctor tells me that I am in excellent health, and I certainly feel that I am," Buffett wrote in his letter to the Gates Foundation, adding he was writing a new will. *Reports from the New York Times News Service, AP, AFP and Reuters*

‘Oracle of Omaha’ noted for modest habits, shrewd stock picks

NEW YORK—ADMIRED AND EMULATED for his shrewd investment sense, US billionaire Warren E. Buffett has chosen a typically maverick approach in his surprise announcement to give away most of his vast fortune to charity.

Buffett, 75, dubbed the "Oracle of Omaha" for his uncanny ability to pick profitable stocks and businesses, broke from the customary practice of other American tycoons who usually pour their wealth into foundations bearing the family name.

Buffett, the world's second richest man, said he would donate the bulk of his riches to a foundation run by the world's richest man, Bill Gates, and do so while he was still alive instead of after his death.

Similar to his investment philosophy, Buffett said he preferred trusting his money with a foundation that already had a successful track record instead of setting up a whole new organization that might not be as effective.

"Who wouldn't select Tiger Woods to take his place in a high-stakes golf game? That's how I feel about this decision about my money," he told Fortune magazine in an interview.

With his big glasses and preference for Cherry Coke, Buffett is known for his humble manner and modest tastes despite amassing billions as the mastermind and chief executive of his investment company Berkshire Hathaway.

In contrast to high-rollers on Wall Street, Buffett still lives in his native Omaha, Nebraska, and continues to live in the same house that he bought in 1957.

First shares

The son of a stockbroker and member of Congress, Buffett reportedly bought his first shares on the stock market at the age of 11 and made a small profit. When the shares continued to rise after he sold them, he learned his first lesson of investing with a view to long-term value.

He ran his own investment partnership after receiving a master's degree in business from Columbia University, outsmarting the stock market by a dramatic margin. In 1965, Buffett purchased a troubled textile manufacturer, Berkshire Hathaway, gradually turning it into a powerhouse holding company based on his hands-off management style.

He has described himself as "wired at birth to allocate capital" and lucky enough to have lived in a rich society in which "enormous quantities of marketable securities were traded and were sometimes ridiculously mispriced."

Buffett's announcement came as a surprise, too, because he had previously indicated his fortune would be donated to charity after his death.

But the passing of his wife, Susan, in 2004, prompted Buffett to change his mind because he had assumed she would outlive him and handle the transition to philanthropy.

Buffett told Fortune that he and Susan had always planned to give their money to charity, saying they shared the view of a philanthropist from another era, Andrew Carnegie.

"In that, we agreed with Andrew Carnegie, who said that huge fortunes that flow in large part from society should in large part be returned to society," he said. *AFP*

2 freed Pinoys to be home soon

By Nikko Dizon

RELEASED FILIPINO OIL WORKERS IN NIGEria Joseph Doctolero and Pacifico Gajo will be returning home to the Philippines within the week.

But Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque in a phone interview yesterday said there was no specific date for their return as the Philippine Embassy in Abuja was still working on their travel documents and the two men were undergoing medical tests.

Doctolero, 37, of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and Gajo, 36, of Sorsogon City, have spoken with their respective spouses, said Philippine Ambassador to Nigeria Masaranga Umpa in a statement released by the DFA yesterday.

Umpa said Doctolero and Gajo were released by their captors on June 25 at 3 p.m. (Nigeria time). They were seized on June 21 in the Niger Delta by six speedboat-riding armed men.

The two were employed as oil workers by Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS), a Norwegian company.

As soon as they were turned over to embassy officials, Doctolero and Gajo were given food, the ambassador said. The two men would also undergo a debriefing and consultations with an embassy team, he added.

Agence France-Presse quoting Nigerian newspapers reported that the Filipinos were kidnapped by residents of Tamatagbolo town following a dispute with PGS, their employer.

The Nigerian dailies reported that they were held by the villagers who wanted to remind PGS of its promises.

"The community struck because of the failure of the Filipinos' employers to respect the memorandum of understanding between them," the Vanguard daily said without giving details of the accord.

Citing the deputy speaker of the Rivers state parliament, Tonye Harry, who brought the freed hostages to Port Harcourt, The Guardian newspaper said "the action was meant to attract attention to this breach by PGS."

The newspapers said PGS had not commented on the matter. Nigerian authorities also declined to comment on whether a ransom was paid to free the hostages.

None of the separatist groups in the oil-rich Niger Delta region had claimed responsibility for abducting the Filipinos.

More than 3,000 Filipinos work in Nigeria, according to the DFA.

The abduction of Doctolero and Gajo was the latest in the string of kidnappings and assaults on foreign workers in the Niger Delta, where militants fighting for control of the region's vast oil resources had warned workers to leave.

With an AFP report

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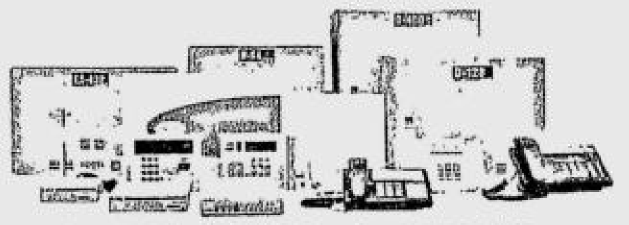

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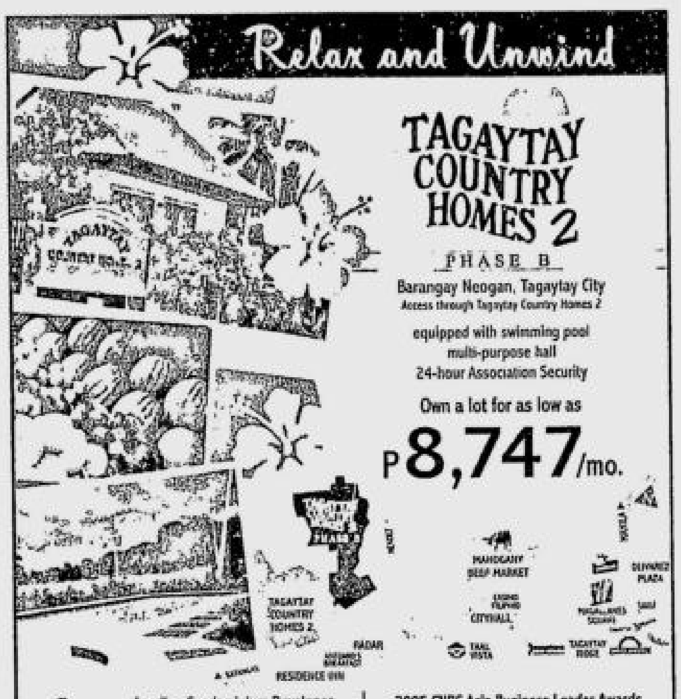

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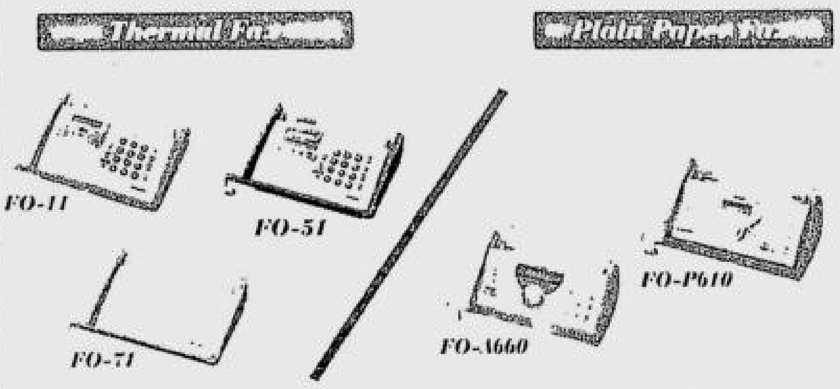

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Impeach complaint filed amid uncertainty

From page A1

the citizens' complaint was the first to be filed at the end of the one-year ban on bringing a new impeachment case against the President.

Nazareno received and stamped the complaint at 8:14 a.m.

Ms Arroyo's opponents held an overnight vigil at the Batasan complex to prevent lawyer Oliver Lozano from preempting their case as he did last year. Lozano beat the House minority in lodging the complaint in May 2005. But it was regarded as weak and subsequently dismissed.

Repeat of charges

The 150-page impeachment complaint was essentially a repetition of last year's initiative. *(See "At a Glance" on Page A1.)* It accused Ms Arroyo of culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, and grave abuse of authority.

The charges stemmed from allegations the President stole the May 2004 election—a charge she has vehemently denied.

Ms Arroyo also was accused of human rights violations. She was blamed for the murders of 690 political dissenters and 42 media persons, the involuntary disappearance of 176 people, the torture of 320 people in the hands of government authorities and the illegal arrests of hundreds of people.

"This is for my mother and father and all the victims," said Arman Albarillo from the left-wing Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Albarillo's parents were found dead from bullet wounds after they were seized by Army troops in 2002.

'Looking for truth'

"All we're looking for is the truth. We are just doing this because we must," said singer Leah Navarro, a convenor of the Black and White Movement, one of the 150 organizations that acted as co-complainants.

Bienvenido Lumbera, National Artist for literature, stressed that artists could not separate themselves from the realities of the wider social milieu.

"The people have been frustrated in seeking reforms from the Arroyo government. It's time that the entire nation asked questions of President Arroyo, and expect that they be answered," Lumbera said.

After receiving the complaint, Nazareno began the painstaking process of requiring each of the more than 200 private complainants to sign and swear to the authenticity of the complaint.

The crisscrossing lines extended way outside Nazareno's office, but the complainants—most of whom had participated in an overnight prayer vigil at the parking lot of the Batasan complex—anxiously awaited their turn.

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano expected the individual signatures to reach as high as 500 in the coming weeks preceding the resumption of the congressional session in late July.

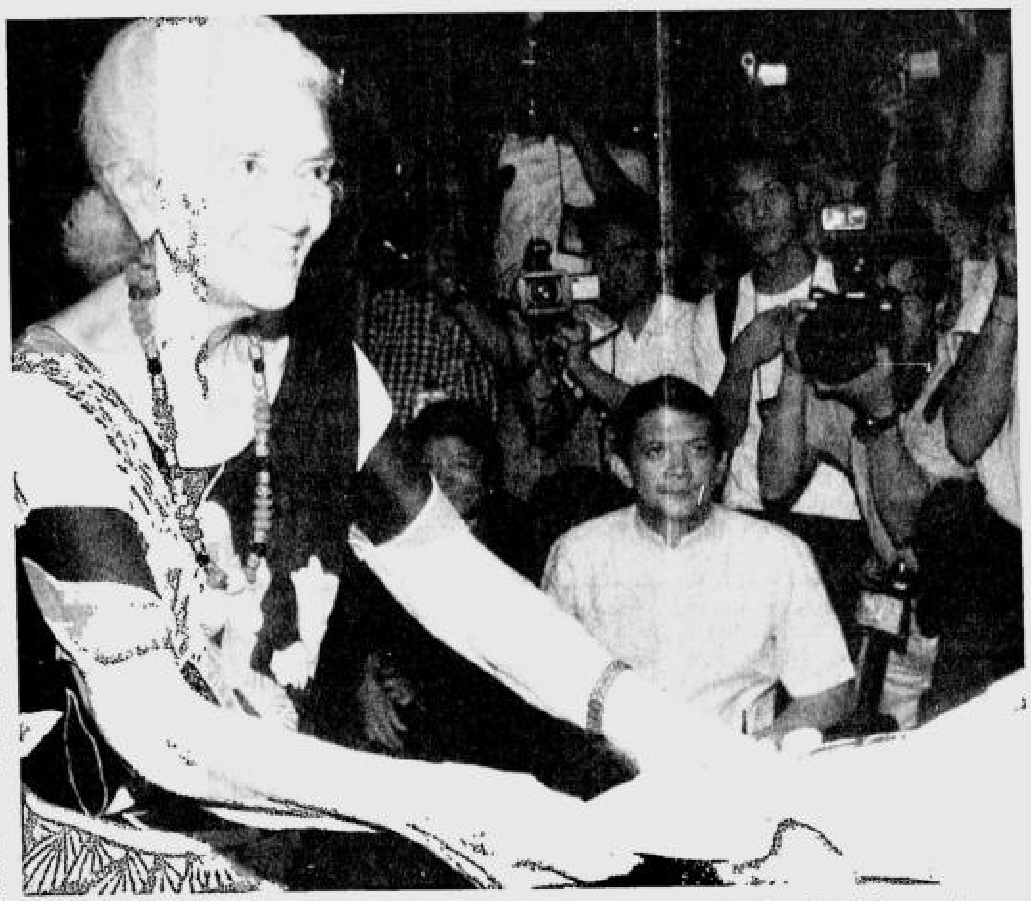
Not about getting 79 votes

Cayetano said the opposition strategy in the days ahead was not about obtaining the magic 79 signatures but forcing the President to answer the charges, and thus putting closure to the crisis of legitimacy hounding her presidency.

"The people are directly taking action," said Cayetano. He said gathering the 79 signatures was only a "constitutional shortcut" to move the case up to the Senate for immediate trial.

"Actually, we need only one signature of a House member to endorse the complaint," he said. He was mum on the chances of the minority getting the required number of signatures in time for the resumption of the last regular session of the 13th Congress on July 24.

Cayetano said the private complainants would continue to gather additional signatures.



ZENEIDA Quezon Avanceña hands over the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno.

JOAN BONDOC

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles shrugged off the effort. "Sure they can do that. They can get as [many] as one thousand private complainants. But that cannot impeach the President. It will not prosper without the 79 signatures of congressmen," said Nograles.

"So I don't know why they are insisting on something they can't get. So what is the exercise all about?" he said.

Nograles said the old complaint, which was trashed by the House in September last year but refiled by Lozano on May 26, was "premature." He said the one-year ban on the filing of a second impeachment case ended only yesterday.

He, however, said Lozano could revive it again but, on record, the citizens' group filed the first complaint this year.

Miscommunication

Marcos said the "seeming miscommunication'" within the House minority had had "a negative effect on the opposition," noting that "the perception outside is they are disorganized and divided."

"It's disappointing to hear these kinds of rumors that the opposition is *watak-watak* (disunited) and ill-prepared," Marcos said. She said the majority would take advantage of this.

She said "a stronger opposition" was needed to finally "claim victory and seal President Arroyo's political death."

"How can we win? If we are really dead serious in the impeachment, then a well-planned offensive should already be in place backed up by an organized political machinery,'" Marcos said.

Out of opposition hands

"Coupled with high-caliber legal research and media groups, we will definitely nail GMA down this time," she said.

Escudero dismissed Marcos's claim that the minority lacked a coherent strategy.

"I don't know where she is coming from with that statement but, true or not, it is out of our hands anyway," he said.

"It's in the hands of private citizens to pursue this and I assure you that they do have a plan of action and strategy. And just because she is not aware of that, that does not mean that there is none," he added.

Nazareno said he would immediately transmit the opposition's complaint to Speaker Jose de Venecia, who has 10 session days after Congress resumes its session on July 24 to include the complaint in the House's order of business.

"To do that, he will refer it to the committee on rules and direct it to include the complaint in the order of business," Nazareno said.

He said the rules committee would then have three session days to include it in the order of business for referral to the House justice committee.

"Upon receipt, the justice committee would have 60 session days to act on it," he said.

Playing it safe

Lawyer Harry Roque said the opposition was set to "refile" the complaint every day until the end of the week to preclude any possible administration claim that it was filed before the end of the one-year ban.

"To play it safe, between now and the end of the week, other citizens' groups will file the same complaint to preclude the House from constraining that we are still covered by the one-year ban," said Roque.

"We want all the bases and dates covered," he added. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio, and Norman Bordadora; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AP, Reuters*

Congregations assail 'culture of fear, death'

From page A1

statements of concern came from the London-based Amnesty International and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, had also condemned the killings.

But the expressions of outrage have failed to stem the bloodshed, despite highly publicized pledges from Malacañang and the police that they were doing everything possible to stop the murders, many of which were committed by men riding on motorcycles.

Militants have blamed the murders on paramilitary groups or "death squads" operating supposedly with the military's blessings.

A bloody toll

An INQUIRER tally showed at least 232 militants and activists have been murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001. The number of slain journalists killed during the period has reached 44.

Human rights groups have put the total number of activists killed under the Arroyo administration at more than 600, including women and children slain during military and police operations, mostly in the countryside.

Many of the victims were identified with leftist organizations.

The killings were among the cases cited in the impeachment complaint lodged in Congress yesterday by more than 100 citizens groups seeking Ms Arroyo's removal from office. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"It appears that one activist is being ruthlessly killed daily because of their sociopolitical beliefs," the church commission said.

It said the number of incidents continued to grow since only a handful of human rights and church organizations were condemning them.

Nameless and faceless

These killings, it said, seemed to undermine any gains in reclaiming "the sanctity of life" that came with Ms Arroyo's abolition of the death penalty law.

"(The gains were) never fully achieved as day after day we hear or read from media about the indiscriminate killings of many nameless and faceless Filipinos which breed in our society a 'culture of fear and death,'" the commission said.

The group echoed an oft-repeated challenge for the government and law enforcement agencies to come up with "just and peaceful solutions" to the extrajudicial killings.

The commission asked priests, brothers and nuns to "pray and act for the speedy resolution of the long-delayed justice for the victims of extrajudicial killings and their families."

Palparan sallies forth

"Our call to promote the fullness of life demands that as a first step we condemn this injustice," it said. "We call for justice for our fellow Filipinos who have died and compassion for the families of the victims."

The Army's 7th Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., the military officer often blamed by militants for the killings, appeared equally relentless in his denunciations of communists and their supporters.

On Sunday, he spoke at a seminar and a rally in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, where about 5,000 residents from the town's 51 villages showed up, a military report said.

Wearing a sports shirt and denim pants, Palparan spoke about the "evils" of the Marxist ideology.

In Mexico, Pampanga, and in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, the general lectured for six hours on the same subject.

Leftist propaganda

The lectures always ended with warnings about "sleeping with the enemy."

"This is to counter the propaganda of the enemy," he said to explain why he gave such long talks.

Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the 71st IB, said Palparan's message had an effect on his audience.

"[They) chanted anti-Left and prodemocracy calls to air their grievances," Cayetano said.

As in other rallies, Palparan shared center stage with speakers from among rebel-returnees, who gave testimony on what they claimed to be wrongdoings in the revolutionary movement.

GMA's war

Sunday's rally in Cuyapo was followed by similar rallies in the neighboring towns of Guimba and Lupao.

The Cuyapo rally was held two weeks after Lupao barangay chair Eugene Estes was killed allegedly by New People's Army rebels. The NPA, which has claimed responsibility for some previous incidents, has not owned up to that killing.

Palparan's one-man propaganda sorties served to focus on the stepped-up counterinsurgency campaign ordered by Ms Arroyo to stamp out the supposed rebel menace during her term.

As part of Palparan's war, government soldiers have been deployed to towns and cities in Central Luzon believed by the military to be influenced or controlled by rebels.

'All legal'

In the Cordillera, the NPA's Lejo Cawilan Command blamed military and police "death squads" for the killing of 12 people, mostly activists, in the province.

In a press statement, it said the killings were perpetrated by soldiers and police agents as part of an anti-insurgency operation under the so-called Inter-Agency Legal Action Group.

Kalinga police chief Senior Supt. Pedro Geronimo Ramos denied the NPA claim, saying the operation was only meant to go after communist rebels involved in ambushes and raids of Army detachments.

"What we are doing is legal," he said. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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3 Filipinos added to 'Nicole' ordeal, says witness

From page A1

Franco recounted that after she and Nicole gave statements at the IIO, "someone approached us" inside one of the rooms on the evening of Nov. 2 and told them to "just accept payment (*magpabayad na lang daw po*)."

Fear for her life

"I did not agree," Franco said, describing the person as a heavily built Filipino male.

Judge Pozon asked her to name the man and when Franco hesitated, Ursua asked to approach the bench. Lawyers from both panels spent about a minute conferring with the judge.

After the huddle, Franco said it was a "Ben Natividad." She could not recall if the man spoke of an exact amount and what precisely the "payment" was for.

Asked by Ursua why she was initially reluctant to identify Natividad in court, Franco said she was afraid for her life.

In contrast to her testimony on Natividad, Franco was livid when she recounted her first meeting with Timoteo Soriano, the driver of the hired van where Smith allegedly raped Nicole.

Franco said that Soriano.at first claimed in her and Nicole's presence that Nicole was not the woman taken on the van by his American customers on the night of Nov. 1.

Pity for Nicole

She said the driver only "admitted that it was my sister" after hearing Ma. Fe Castro, another eyewitness, assert that she saw Nicole being carried "like a pig" from Soriano's van.

Franco said Soriano then admitted "that it was my sister and said he took pity [on her] for what the Americans did to her..."

It was at this point that Franco turned to the accused Americans, her outburst causing a brief break in the hearing.

Calming down, she continued: "(Soriano) said he will help us by giving a voluntary statement. Then he went out of the room."

Soriano did give a statement at the IIO but recanted later, claiming he had been coerced into signing his original statement which spoke of "gang rape."

Franco sounded bitter right from the start of her testimony yesterday.

She recalled how Nicole underwent a urine test at the James Gordon Hospital in Olongapo City at around 3 a.m., or shortly after the supposed rape. Her sister was in a state of shock and Franco said it was she who accomplished the forms for Nicole.

She said a certain Dr. Estera, upon learning Nicole was to be tested in connection with a rape incident, snapped at her patient: "*Na-rape ka? Baka ginusto mo*? (So you were raped? Maybe you wanted it?)"

Nicole in hysterics

When Nicole heard this, she answered back, "Why would I want that?" Franco said. "Then (Nicole) became hysterical."

As in her testimony on Natividad, Franco only identified Estera by name when Judge Pozon asked her.

Nicole repeatedly cried out in pain while Estera examined her "but the doctor just went on ignoring her," Franco said in Filipino.

Franco also resented how the hospital attended to a pregnant woman first, despite the fact that Nicole got there well ahead of the woman.

"What happened to us is worse than the death of a loved one. This is a nightmare," Franco said. "We lost many opportunities. I could have found a job by now. We will grow old with this nightmare and it will not go away."

She said one of their younger siblings had been forced to stop schooling because "we all had to give priority to (Nicole)."

Franco said it was only on the afternoon of Nov. 3 that Nicole was able to file a formal complaint before the Olongapo City prosecutors office. By then, SBMA Administrator Armand Areza had provided the sisters with a safehouse.

Unflinching witness

Franco did not flinch as the defense panel tried to break her testimony, which the prosecution deemed crucial in proving that Nicole was too drunk to have consented to sex.

Nicole has said that she was drunk when Smith raped her at the back of the Starex van. The Marine had claimed he had consensual sex with Nicole.

Franco aimed a fierce glare at defense lawyer Jose Justiniano as he fired one question after another in a bid to show that the sisters made no effort to refuse the drinks that their American companion, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills, offered them before the alleged rape occurred.

Barrage of questions

Justiniano also questioned Franco about the gaps between the drinks they consumed, as he tried to establish that the sisters had enough time between drinks to diffuse the alcohol content in their bodies and keep them from getting too drunk.

"Did you not suggest to Mills to order drinks that will not make you drunk?" Justiniano asked. Franco said no.

"Did you not tells Mills not to order anymore because you were already dizzy? Did you not suggest to him to just order another type of drink that will not make you drunk? Did you not tell Mills that you were dizzy and that you should go back to the hotel?" the lawyer said.

"Mills was the one who went to the bar ... How can I talk to Mills when he was going around the bar?" Franco replied.

By its questioning, the defense apparently sought to portray that Nicole was sober enough to have consented to sex with Smith, disputing the prosecution line that she was too drunk to have agreed to sex. But Ursua said the defense tactics established nothing.

Franco resumes her testimony today.

The INQUIRER sought Natividad's reaction but he refused to take five calls after he was told in a text message what the INQUIRER wanted to ask him about.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga, said Natividad was "referring the issue to his father-in-law, the lawyer Oliver Lozano."

Salonga said he could not recall if Natividad was part of the SBMA group he had directed to assist the rape victim. He said his instruction to the group was to provide her with medical and legal help, and a house to keep her away from the "*usiseros* (busybodies)."

Salonga said Natividad was a consultant at the SBMA, not his "senior executive assistant," as Natividad had previously identified himself to the INQUIRER.

Salonga also said he did not remember his office being asked to facilitate any offers of money for Nicole.

He said that "in fairness to the US Navy," American authorities had told him "that they will abide by the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement)."

With a report from Tonette Orejeas, Central Luzon Desk

P25 wage increase derided, applauded

From page A1

Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) on Sunday raises the daily minimum wage in the metropolis to P350, effective July 11. Other regional wage boards have yet to issue their own increase orders.

"An insult to all workers," said KMU secretary general Joel Maglunsod of the increase.

Maglunsod said the P25 could buy only a kilo of rice or two cans of sardines.

"The arms of poverty grip not only minimum wage earners, but also those who earn more than the minimum wage. Though we're poor, we're not beggars, [so] don't give us alms. Give workers what's due them and their families," he said.

Renato Magtubo, Partido ng Manggagawa chair and party-list representative, said "another grave injustice to labor has been committed."

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri saw the increase in a different light. "It looks right because it went through a long review by the tripartite board. That is their consensus and we welcome and respect this."

President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said the RTWPB in Metro Manila managed to strike "a balance between the demands of labor for higher wages and the capacity of businesses to afford more cost adjustments."

Donald Dee, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said businessmen had initially offered a P20 increase based on a study of the impact of the high oil prices on basic commodities and services.

"After our negotiations, we finally agreed on P25, which we think is reasonable," Dee said.

Francis Chua, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. president, said that when compared with the inflation rate, the P25 should be enough to cover the increase in the cost of living.

But Chua said the government should ensure that basic commodities and utilities remained within the reach of minimum wage earners.

The adjustment will result in a 7.7-percent wage increase, higher than the 6.3 percent (P20.53 based on actual consumer price index data as of May) required to restore the purchasing power of minimum wage workers to the June 2005 level when the previous order was issued, an official of the labor department said.

Competitiveness eroded

For his part, Miguel Varela, chair of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said the wage increase was "manageable" for employers but this would further erode the country's competitiveness.

"This has increased to about $6.50 the already very high Philippine minimum daily wage," Varela said.

Joey Ignacio, spokesperson of the Alliance of Progressive Labor, called the increase "ridiculous," while Leody de Guzman, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino chair, said the board's decision "did not come as a surprise."

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), which originally petitioned for a P75 across-the-board increase, branded the pay hike as "too inconsequential."

"[The increase] will hardly make a dent in improving the living standards of workers in Metro Manila," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said.

Aguilar said the TUCP would file an appeal in the National Wage and Productivity Commission (NWPC), which has the power to review the decisions of the wage boards.

De Guzman said that like past wage orders, the latest one would only cover a very small section of the working class because it was not "across the board."

The wage order would also be "unenforceable" because many employers are expected to apply for exemptions, he said.

Order to benefit 700,000

NWPC Executive Director Rebecca Calzado said the board's order would benefit 700,000 minimum wage earners in Metro Manila. The number excludes government employees and household help.

Of the 700,000, about 150,000 are covered by collective bargaining agreements and employer-employee pacts that assure them of a yearly raise.

Under the law, labor or employers' groups have up to 10 days to file an appeal in the NWPC. They may be required to post a surety bond if they want to delay the implementation of the wage order. In turn, the commission has 60 days to rule on the appeal.

Private schools that have increased tuition this current school year are to be considered compliant with the wage order. (Part of any increase in tuition goes to the wages of workers in the education sector.) Those that did not raise tuition may defer compliance until the next school year.

Any wage increase granted three months ago (for companies with unions) or five months ago (for those without unions) before the effectivity of the order may be considered as compliant with the wage increase.

Exemptions may be granted by the board for not more than a year to establishments that are distressed, facing potential losses, employing not more than 10 workers or whose total assets (including those arising from loans but excluding land) are not more than P3 million.

At a press briefing, Department of Labor and Employment officials led by Labor Standards Undersecretary Romeo Lagman, NWPC Executive Director Calzado and RTWPB-NCR Chair Ricardo Martinez, who is DOLE-NCR director, defended the board's ruling.

"It's not a mere pittance because some CBAs concluded for 2005 in the National Capital Region actually provided a P1-P30 wage increase," Lagman said.

Martinez said the board considered the need to provide immediate relief to workers and their families from the rising cost of living brought about by the continued rise in the price of oil in the world and domestic markets, without impairing the viability of business enterprises.

The KMU, BMP, PM and APL said the "measly" increase given by the wage board in Metro Manila bolstered their demand for the abolition of all wage boards, the reformation of the wage-fixing mechanism and the immediate passage of the P125 legislated across-the-board minimum wage increase.

Family living wage

A FAMILY OF SIX IN METRO MANILA IN APRIL NEEDED TO earn at least P748 a day or P22,440 a month for it to maintain a decent standard of existence beyond mere subsistence, according to the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC).

Thus, the minimum daily wage in the private sector in Metro Manila, despite being raised by P25 to P350 effective July, is still less than half the family living wage (FLW). And even if both father and mother are earning the minimum wages, their combined income will still fall short of the FLW.

The NWPC defines family living wage as "the income needed to provide for the family's food and nonfood expenditures with sufficient allowance for savings and investments for social security."

Family living wage covers three daily meals and expenditures, such as rent, clothing allowance, utilities, transportation and entertainment. The definition stresses the need for savings, which the family can use in case of emergency.

Not only is the P25 increase in daily basic pay insufficient, it also does not apply to all establishments.

The NWPC listed those exempted from the prescribed wage increase or cost of living allowance for one year as follows: Establishments with considerable deficits, banks and quasi-banks under liquidation or controllership, retail or service establishments employing not more than 10 workers (excluding the owners) for at least six months a year, and establishments adversely affected by natural calamities that occurred within six months before the effectivity of the wage increase order.

Before applying for exemption, an establishment should inform its workers about its intention. It should then submit to the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board proof that it belongs to the aforementioned categories (e.g., audited financial statements, affidavits from the employer). The documents should be filed within two months from publication of the new wage order.

Any worker can oppose the establishment's application for exemption by petitioning the appropriate board not later than 15 days after receiving notice of the application.

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

NFHF National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc.
Gabriel H. Uy
National Chairman
Galing ng Pinoy Pork! 2
15th Hog Farmers Convention
June 29 to July 1, 2006
Fontana Leisure Parks, Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga
"Isinusulong ang pag-unlad ng Philippine Swine Industry sa tulong ng mga makabagong teknolohiya at information dissemination."
FREE
- Seminars on backyard hog raising
- Exhibits & forums on the latest in swine raising technologies
- Livelihood seminars on pork processing
- Cooking demos
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MONSANTO imagine
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Clark Legacy Conservation Foundation, Inc.
NOVARTIS
The Chairman's Golf Cup II 2006
Royal Northwoods Golf and Country Club San Rafael, Bulacan
June 27, 2006
Welcom Bio-Chem
PIGPRO
Nation Granary
RNT
Nutriplus Laboratories Corp.
3rd PIGminton Open
June 28, 2006
Smash Power
Angeles City Pampanga
Simon Enterprises, Inc.
Bio Quest Marketing, Inc.
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Vethealth Corporation
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Intervet
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June 30, 2006
6:00pm onwards!
With performances by Cueshé
Cueshé
- Festival sisig plate set at affordable prices!
- Live band entertainment!
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Everybody's game

EDITORIAL

ALL THE WORLD IS GOING GAGA OVER THE World Cup, but the Philippines is one of the few countries that has not been caught up in the infectious enthusiasm over the games. Well, yes, there are the hundreds of TV viewers who have caught the fever and stay up until 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. to watch "live" replays (an oxymoron if ever there was one). And there are hundreds of others who watch the matches on wide screens while quaffing and munching on P300 to P500 worth of "consumables" in posh hotels and restaurants.

The sudden interest in football, although not widespread, is encouraging in a country that seems to think that all sports can be summed up in the three B's: basketball, boxing and billiards. We hope the interest develops into a campaign, a movement, something that would ultimately lead to the revival in this country of football (better known here as "soccer").

Soccer was one of the popular sports in the Philippines until the late 1950s or early 1960s, when basketball began to gain popularity among the youth, thanks to the intercollegiate and inter-university contests, and later, the commercial leagues that used teams to promote and advertise their products.

Joseph Blatter, president of Federation Internationale de Football Association (Fifa), recalled in an interview in January 2005 that 51 years ago the Philippines was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation and was prominent in the Asian football scene. "But because of the American influence, basketball became the No. 1 sport in the Philippines," he added.

Football, not basketball, is the universal and the single most important sport in the world. There are now six football confederations and 205 associations with more than 200 million players, including 40 million women and girls. Exactly 99.8 percent are amateurs and only .2 percent are professional players.

Football has come a long way from its beginnings in 200 B.C. in China where a form of the game was played that emphasized the ability of players to dribble a leather ball. The modern-day version is known to have started in England and the first ball was said to have been the severed head of a Danish brigand.

In 1857, the first club was formed in Sheffield, England. And in 1913, the Fifa was created to coordinate all of the national associations in the world. The result was the development of international competitions such as the World Cup held every four years.

Football's popularity spread quickly throughout the world because it is simplicity itself. The aim is to get the ball by any means except by the hands, into the goals at each end of the field. It can be played on any vacant lot using just a ball or any substitute. No wonder it is especially popular in poor countries where people cannot afford to buy expensive sports equipment.

Many football superstars like Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) of Brazil, considered one of the greatest football players of all time, came from poor families and achieved world stardom because of their skill. Among the other outstanding players are Diego Maradona, the greatest Argentine player in history, who is a complete master of the ball, keeping it under his control at all times, even when running at full speed; Ronaldinho of Brazil, for whom Leeds once offered 75 million euros or $96 million, who is blessed with breathtaking skill and almost supernatural ball control; and Hernan Crespo of Argentina, one of the world's most prolific strikers, who has scored with every conceivable type of goal, from lobs and backheels to overhead kicks.

These are among the players who have enthralled spectators all over the world with their swiftness, virtuosity, fluidity and grace. These are the men whose athleticism and artistry make football such a joy to watch. Their passion for the sport is matched by the fierce patriotism of their fans who will party nonstop for two days after the national team's victory or riot or even kill when it loses an important game.

Football is not necessarily a game for tall men (for instance, Maradona is only 5 feet 6 inches tall), and that is why it is a game where Filipinos can be competitive. Filipinos are naturally swift and fluid in their movements, graceful and very adaptive. Let us hope that with the renewed interest sparked by the World Cup, Filipinos will again take up football where they have a better chance to win than in basketball, a game for the really tall men.

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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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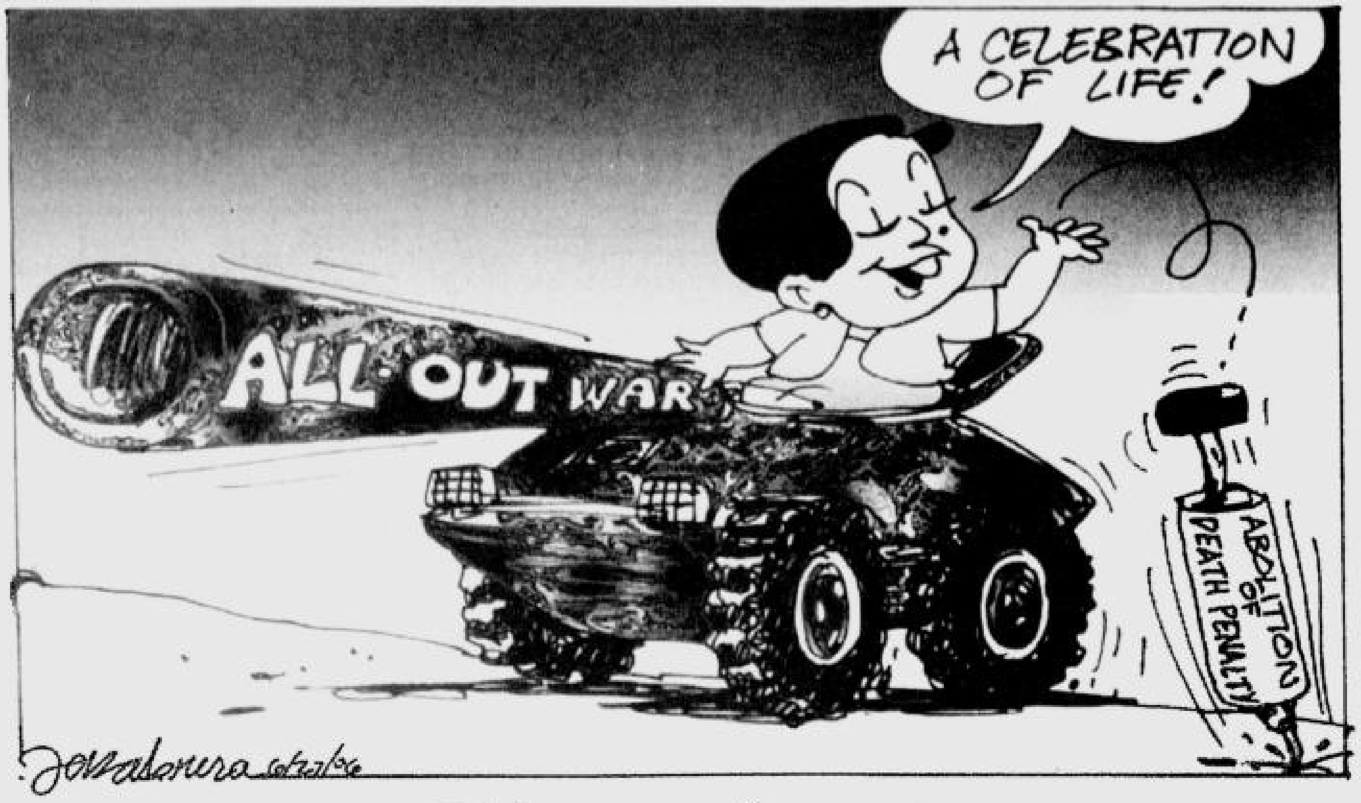

Ultimate safety net

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

RICE SEEDS, STORED IN AN EARTHQUAKE-proof Philippine gene bank, will soon be shipped to an Arctic high-security vault, there to be stocked alongside those of other crops to form "an ultimate safety net" for the world's food.

Almost half the length of a football field, the "safe" is being drilled into a mountain on the snow-bound Norwegian island of Svalbard. It's a spin-off from the 2004 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

"It's our final safety net," Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said at the cornerstone rites. Stored seeds can be destroyed by war, political conflict, natural calamities or research disruptions. "This has apparently happened about 40 times to date (and Svalbard) will make it possible to replace seeds which have been lost."

Svalbard will be, "in effect, the Fort Knox of seeds," the Washington Post noted, "It's to be the ultimate backup in the event of a global catastrophe ... so humankind would not have to start again from scratch."

Sealed off by its remoteness, buried in three feet of concrete, ringed by a perimeter fence, chilled by Arctic permafrost, the seed bank will be completed by late 2007. It will then store seeds from all over the world, says Global Crop Diversity Trust, a United Nations-linked organization that campaigned to establish the seed bank.

When its airtight doors close, for perma-frost slumber, over three million seeds will be stockpiled, including packets from the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños.

Seeds are at the core of human life. About two million varieties of plants are used for food and forage today. "*Kun pili an binhi, dakul an aanihon,*" a Bicol proverb says. If the seed is selected, the harvest will be bountiful.

Rice is the main staple for almost three billion people. Most of the calories that enabled earth's population to double 10 times over the last 10,000 years came from three plants: maize, rice and wheat. Rice harvests pulled ahead of wheat in 1999. Their history is that of mankind.

"IRRI looks forward to sending sub-samples of its collection to Svalbard for permanent ultra-safe conservation," says Dr. Ruaraidh Sackville Hamilton, heads of the IRRI gene bank.

The Genetic Rice Resources Center in Los Baños is one of the world's most comprehensive banks for rice germ plasm. Its refrigerated storerooms hold over 107,000 samples of rice collected from 110 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

IRRI worked in the 1990s with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to plan a radically new approach to safe conservation of crop diversity, Hamilton recalled. "These ultimately resulted in the Global Crop Diversity Trust."

About 1,400 seed banks exist worldwide. These include large national collections in the United States and China. Smaller ones operate at universities and research laboratories. Other CGIAR centers focus on maize, wheat and other crops. These are backed by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization and several foundations.

IRRI is developing, with the Trust, a strategy to link all the world's collection of rice, Hamilton said. The institute's "model computer system allows curators of rice collections to share data with the rest of the world . . . so we ensure that this unique diversity is also used fairly to help the poor."

At Svalbard, seeds from Los Baños, along with samples from the world over, will be sealed in black boxes. But they go into a "bank of last resort." Seeds will be drawn from the vault only when all other sources have been obliterated or exhausted.

Svalbard's "Noah's Ark" is seen in the context of how a world of nine billion people by 2030 can be "adequately and equitably fed, and in environmentally sustainable ways," Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug told a meeting of the Asian Development in Manila.

Borlaug developed wheat varieties that tripled yields in Mexico in the early 1960s—and spread worldwide. By 1974, India's wheat harvests had tripled. This launched the "Green Revolution" worldwide

A slowing down of growth rates will probably see population peak below 10 billion—"10 gigapeople"—not long after 2050. "This was unthinkable just two decades ago," notes the Economist. "Human beings may be the only creatures that have fewer babies when better fed."

Consumption will require world food supply to double over the next 50 years, Borlaug said. In China alone, food, feed and fiber demand by a larger wealthier population is likely to double by mid-century. But its arable land base is likely to shrink by 20 percent.

Asia is running out of land to plow. Food must come from intensified production on already farmed land. Limited water resources is a constraint. By the year 2025, as much as two-thirds of the world population is likely to live under water-stress conditions

And it is only a matter of time before East Africa's new race of destructive stem rust erupts here, affecting cereal production.

Genetic modification has transformed maize, rice and soyabeans. Biotechnology and new scientific tools will be developed to help meet future food and fiber challenges.

The historical track record shows high-yielding varieties of rice, wheat and maize, over the past 50 years, tripled world cereal production—with only a 10-percent increase in total cultivated cereal area.

To beat back hunger, Borlaug called for a twin-track strategy: first, productivity-led agricultural growth component; and second, safety net programs to assist the chronically hungry. That requires political mindsets to see beyond the next elections.

Acquired tastes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FOOTBALL IS BAD FOR THE HEALTH. WELL, sometimes, when it takes the form of the World Cup, and when the World Cup is held in a country that airs at ungodly hours in these parts.

The one held in Korea four years ago at least had me only getting soused in bright sunny afternoons, which was when the games beamed here. Today's Cup, which is being hosted by Germany, has me spending sleepless nights, even if I no longer get soused these days, or nights, from the tempering effect of gout. A week or so ago, the games played at 9 p.m., 12 midnight and 3 a.m. The best games are naturally reserved for last, which means that if you want the best, you'll have to pay the price of hitting the sack at 5 a.m. Now, with the round of 16, the games have gone down to two a day but still air at 11 and 3 a.m. I'll leave the football gods to spare me the ravages of long waking hours.

I didn't become a World Cup fan until a couple of World Cups ago. I caught a bit of the 1998 one, cheering in particular for underdog Croatia, who went on to win third place. Host France won that year—playing at home does seem to work; Germany seems headed in that direction this year, which bodes ill for a bet I made in favor of Brazil—which sparked celebrations of exceptional abandon.

That's what turned me into a fan. The description by various media of the post-game celebrations was mind-boggling: The French danced in the streets, drank till morning and threw themselves into fountains, an orgy of revelry not seen since D-Day. It was the first time I caught a glimpse of what they meant when they said football isn't just a game, it is a religion. Or for the more secular, if it is a game at all, it is the game of life.

I confess I haven't been as religious in following the football matches regularly being aired on Star Sports particularly, but I have been so at least about the last two World Cups. The World Cup is always special, which is when the real transformation takes place, which is when making a goal takes on the aspect of winning a war. No, more than that, of discovering the Fountain of Youth. Since the Word Cup started early this month, I completely forgot that Miami was battling Dallas for the NBA crown. Suddenly, the bragging rights there became just, well, bragging, the rights being more debatable. I don't know what kind of coverage it got in the world media. I do know that some years ago, while I was in Kuala Lampur and the NBA finals were being played longside a UEFA match, I was at pains to find news about the first while the second was splashed all over the sports pages of newspapers. And that wasn't the World Cup.

I do know that in this country eyebrows are still raised at the seemingly inexplicable fuss about people acting as though they had no hands and frenetically kicking a ball from one side of a field to another. I do know that in this country, people still say, "What a boring game," and "How can people be excited by a game that ends up 0-0?" (or nil-nil, as the Brits say).

What can I say? What game is really exciting from that perspective? What's so exciting about a bunch of people trying to shoot a ball through a hoop? What's so exciting about a bunch of people trying to hit a ball with something so ridiculous as a wooden bat? What's so exciting about a bunch of people pushing and shoving and banging each other's brains out with ferocious tackles? The excitement lies in people struggling to overcome adversity in as graceful and artistic a manner as possible. I leave others to argue for plunging a knife into a bull's head as a supreme example of grace under pressure. But it's much like life itself.

Football, like basketball, or indeed, like wine and jazz, is an acquired taste. Every game offers its own excitement, for those with the (developed) sensibility for it. Tell a Japanese that sumo wrestling and Go are boring. While at that, tell the Russians that chess is boring. I used to play chess reasonably well and followed the titanic battle between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky ages ago (that's what got me into the game) with rapturous attention. There's gripping drama that unravels on the board and on the field that isn't captured by the score or "bottom line." A draw, or score of 0-0, no more tells the story of a chess or football match than it does about a person's life. The bottom line of life is death, but that isn't quite the story. You want instant gratification, go to a video arcade, or to the john.

I had wished the United States would go farther than it did the last World Cup to generate more interest in football in that country. Can you imagine if the African-Americans (to be PC about it) in particular, who have pretty much dominated every other sport, got into it big time? But, alas, the US did even worse than last time, though I thought too that that free kick awarded to Ghana which gave them the win and booted the US out was horrendously unfair.

Meanwhile, I'll continue to thrill to the sight of former enemies and colonial masters and slaves boringly coming together in less murderous but equally ferocious confrontations. I'll continue to revel in the sight of people, castes and classes and races boringly calling a truce on their deadly games of wars and strife to foment this deathly silly and beautiful war and strife. I'll continue to feel along with the players and their fans and their nations and the peoples of this planet the boringly crushing pain of those who fall in the field of battle and the boringly bursting joy of those who see all over again the miracle of their liberation at the beaches of Normandy.

The World Cup is an acquired taste. But then living itself is an acquired taste.

* * *

Correction: I meant Norberto Gonzales in yesterday's column but somehow wrote Raul Gonzalez. Not much difference but for accuracy's sake.

Second impeachment won't fly—Baterina

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PALACE OFFICIALS APPEALED TO THE OPPOSITION to postpone the filing of a new impeachment complaint until President Macapagal-Arroyo returns from her European visit on July 2. This is a reasonable request, and perhaps the more statesmanlike in the opposition would grant it. There's no doubt that the opposition is determined to file a new complaint. But whether it would prosper is another thing.

Recently I ran into Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina and asked him about the chances of this second impeachment complaint prospering. This is assuming that the House justice committee does not recognize the validity of the argument of GMA's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, that a still-pending TRO motion in the Supreme Court filed by opposition members bars the filing of a second complaint.

* * *

Baterina, one of the key anti-impeachment lawmakers last year, opined that a second complaint won't prosper for a number of reasons. For one thing, he argued, even the Church which initially supported the filing of a second complaint is now divided against it, even though the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is still pressing for a determination of the truth about GMA's victory in 2004. Some prominent Church men realize the adverse effects of a new impeachment on the slowly recovering economy.

Baterina also opined that most people are tired of political squabbles and would rather concentrate on bettering their lives and their future. Moreover, many believe there's no justifiable cause for impeachment. Raking up the "Hello Garci" issue anew, he said, would doom it under the res judicata clause. As for Proclamation 1017, he said it could be argued that this was among the President's options under the Constitution. And with regard to the disappearance of scores of activists, he argued that there has to be a "causal connection" to the President for the charged to stick.

* * *

Then there's the election factor. With the 2007 elections just around the corner, he said members of the ruling party will definitely close ranks in order not to jeopardize their chances. And I agree: the elections would be the most dominant reason for the likely failure of a second impeachment. By December, all those running for reelection would be preoccupied with their candidacies, and politicos being pragmatic, they know what those who wield power can do for them.

I queried Baterina what he'd do after his third term ends 2007. He said he'd turn to farming—not camote, but coconuts. He stressed that under the Kyoto Protocol, coconut methyl-esther will play a crucial role in preventing the destruction of the ozone layer.

* * *

Yesterday was the 31st death anniversary of the founder of Opus Dei, Josemaria Escriva, who was canonized by Pope John Paul on Oct. 6, 2002. In the Church calendar, June 26 is his feast day. In his 73 years on earth, the Spanish-born St. Josemaria preached that everyone is called to sanctity right where he is, in the middle of the world, and that work professionally done and offered with love to God is the hinge of one's sanctification. During his lifetime and in the 31 years since he went to heaven, tens of thousands of people around the world have been profoundly influenced by St. Josemaria.

* * *

Among them is a couple from Angeles City, Gil and Ming Lim. The Lims, who are from well-to-do families in Pampanga, had been friends for 11 years, but some of those years Ming spent in the United States. Although caught up in their own careers and activist causes, they began to realize at some point that they wanted to settle down. One day, Gil surprised Ming with a proposal over the phone. She flew back home to Manila and they got married, only to realize that he was hooked on drugs.

Ming, encouraged by her sister-in-law who's active in Opus Dei, started her novena prayer to St. Josemaria. On Easter Sunday in 1996, she sought the assistance of the police, and the family took him to a drug rehab center called New Beginnings. There were setbacks and it took two more confinements before a real solution came, which Ming credits to St. Josemaria's intercession. She read about a French doctor who treated drug addiction with laser acupuncture. After months of treatment, Gil never again liked the taste of shabu. Just as important was the healing of his family relationship as well as helping other addicts recover.

* * *

An uncle sold them the idea of converting an idle family lot near the wet market, in a depressed area of Angeles, into a pay parking lot. They set up PhiloVier Corp., named after their two children, Tamara Philomena and Camilo Javier. They cleaned up that part of the city and settled the squatters in another two-hectare property in Sapang Balen, with titles of their own, and ran the corporation professionally. Today, among their more than 40 employees, 10 are recovering from drug addiction. Definitely one of the profound influences on their lives is the book that documents favors granted through St. Josemaria's intercession, titled "God Provides," edited by Monina Allarey Mercado.

* * *

In addition, the Lims sought to help inculcate good moral values among the young by setting up the San Marcelo Youth Camp, named after St. Marcellus, a Roman centurion who refused to take part in idolatrous rituals in the early Christian years and for which he was beheaded. The camp gathers 25 to 50 boys and girls from the depressed areas, ages 18 to 22, for discussions of issues like parent-child relationships, sexuality and homosexuality, morality, spirituality and rights of the youth. They are taught how to think for themselves in a leadership training and team building module where they come to realize that they have choices in their lives.

The man from Greenpeace

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 1983, DR. GERD LEIPOLD, NOW THE INTERnational executive director of Greenpeace, boarded the gondola of a hot-air balloon and with another activist-colleague flew the balloon from West to East Berlin across the infamous Berlin Wall. Landing in a field just outside the East German capital, Leipold and his friend were arrested and detained, before being freed and expelled from the country.

The balloon flight was made in protest against the testing of nuclear weapons and was entirely in line with Greenpeace's arsenal of daring, "in your face" protest actions on behalf of the environment. At the time he flew across the Berlin Wall, Leipold was executive director of Greenpeace Germany, and shortly after was appointed to run the international disarmament campaign. The holder of a PhD in Oceanography, Leipold left Greenpeace in 1992 to "earn a living" as a consultant on climate research. But in 2001, having remained in touch with the organization as a supporter, he was asked to come on board as executive director.

In Manila recently mainly to address a conference on clean energy organized by the Asian Development Bank, Leipold says that while his work requires him to do a lot of traveling, he also enjoys it because "I am inspired by the changes I see, especially in Asia."

Asia, he says, is Greenpeace's "number one priority" because "the future of this planet will be decided here." While it may still be valid to lay the blame for global warming and other environmental problems on the doorstep of industrialized developed nations today, he says that "in the next 10 years, China and India will outpace the United States (in manufacturing), and it doesn't help to just keep blaming the US and Europe."

* * *

NEITHER will merely throwing money at it solve the problem, says Leipold. "Money doesn't do very much. People have to be aware that doing something about the environment will benefit them."

Governments in Asia have the advantage of knowing so much more about addressing environmental concerns at an early stage of development, when it is still possible to enact laws and take steps before the situation gets any worse, he says. If people in Europe and, to a lesser extent, in North America are now acutely aware of environmental problems, such awareness has come only after witnessing and living with the environmental damage and loss of resources. "You don't have to repeat the experience of old countries," notes Leipold.

At the ADB forum, Leipold called on the institution to "spearhead the global energy revolution" by advocating "stronger, more ambitious renewable energy policies and targets among its developing member nations."

He also assailed the ADB for "supporting coal," that is, funding the establishment of coal-fired power plants and other "dirty" sources of energy.

"We are at a crossroads," asserts Leipold. "If the world continues to be dependent on oil, the future looks more and more unstable. With oil prices rising and the cost of other energy sources increasing, the situation cannot but lead to war."

* * *

"IT'S not true that clean energy always costs money," he says. "We have built enough experience with alternative energy sources that we can now go much faster" in development and distribution.

"The cost of renewable energy has gone down considerably," Leipold notes. Wind-powered energy now costs only 10 percent of what it used to cost 10 years ago."

While Greenpeace Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, works with local legislators and decision-makers to invest more in renewable sources of energy and enact protective legislation against air, water and toxic pollution, Greenpeace International works "on the global context," influencing multi-lateral agencies like the ADB and World Bank as well as international investors to improve the country's energy profile.

Yet even as Greenpeace searches for ways to work with governments and the private sector to promote clean energy, it doesn't mean, though, that it has entirely abandoned its activism. It still uses public opinion, or the threat of turning it against a government or company, as a potent weapon to push its agenda.

* * *

LEIPOLD recalls, with some relish, a campaign Greenpeace launched to convince Hewlett Packard, a computer manufacturer, to be more responsible in the dumping of its waste material. Using negotiations as well as public demonstrations, Greenpeace convinced HP not just to adopt more responsible recycling of toxic waste, but also to look for alternative contents in their own products in place of toxic chemicals and non-recyclable materials.

This approach worked just as well with another major American distributor, Dell Computers. "We give them a scare," Leipold says with a smile, "through public protests and by mobilizing consumers."

Working with the private sector, says Leipold, is rewarding not only because companies are very concerned about their reputations, but also because "once they decide to act, there's no stopping them. If they make a promise to you, they will fulfill and try to turn it into a competitive advantage."

In working with the business sector, Greenpeace "acknowledges the good steps that have been taken and assure the companies that if you do the right thing, you won't be targeted anymore."

Greenpeace, Leipold points out, is effective because it has retained its independence and credibility in its 35 years of existence. "We don't accept money from businesses or corporations or governments. We depend on the monthly support of our 2.7 million supporters around the world." In the Philippines, for a minimum donation of P150 a month, some 3,000 members keep Greenpeace afloat and autonomous.

Judgment in Phnom Penh

WORLD VIEW

Dina Nay and James A. Goldston

THREE DECADES AFTER THE KHMER ROUGE killed a quarter of Cambodia's seven million people, a court to try the most responsible surviving leaders is set to open its doors.

Under an agreement between the United Nations and Cambodia's government, 13 foreign judges and prosecutors have been chosen to serve alongside 17 Cambodian counterparts. This eclectic group of jurists will begin, in the first week of July, an unusual experiment in international justice. Over the next three years, the aptly named Extraordinary Chambers will seek to produce a measure of legal accountability for one of the worst genocides of the 20th century. Among those likely to be tried are two of Pol Pot's closest and most powerful cohorts: Nuon Chea, a Khmer Rouge party leader, and Ieng Sary, the former deputy prime minister for foreign affairs.

Given how long it has taken to get off the ground—on-again-off-again talks dragged out over nine years—this tribunal's very existence is a cause for celebration. But the test of the trials will be whether they are—and are seen to be—fact-driven, impartial and consistent with international standards.

For reasons of history and as a matter of law, both the Cambodian government and the international community share responsibility for making this court a success. To do so, they must address several major challenges.

First, unlike hybrid tribunals in East Timor, Kosovo and Sierra Leone, international judges are a minority. (A "super-majority" voting mechanism will ensure that the vote of at least one international judge is needed to reach a judgment.) There are good reasons why mixed tribunals should have substantial national components. Nonetheless, this arrangement poses particular challenges in a country where the quality and independence of judicial decision-making have long been questioned.

Second, the length of time that has passed since the crimes—longer than 30 years, in some cases—far exceeds that for any comparable proceeding. Other war-crimes courts have taken place in the immediate aftermath of conflict. Cambodia's long delay complicates the task of preserving evidence, including human memory, that is so essential to proving guilt.

These structural impediments cannot be removed. But they can be partly overcome with intensive training in Cambodian and international law and complex investigative techniques. This must be reinforced by vigorous independent monitoring throughout the process.

Third, the court site is located in a military compound far from downtown Phnom Penh. If ordinary people are to observe this historic event, buses will have to transport them. The proceedings should be broadcast nationwide on radio and television. Civic groups and the court will need to develop creative outreach strategies to target the predominantly rural population to ensure that all Cambodians have the opportunity to understand these proceedings. At the very least, court staff should work with local groups to convene meetings about the trials, and the issues they raise, in communities across the country.

Fourth, in recent months opposition leaders and human rights activists have been subjected to criminal charges for speech critical of the government. Draft legislation seeks to make criminal defamation a permanent fixture, and includes new provisions making it an offense to criticize a court ruling.

Cambodia's political leaders and donor states should do more to underscore the value of wide-ranging debate about the tribunal and the larger legacy of Cambodia's civil conflict. Cambodian survivors of the Khmer Rouge recall the daily fear of criticizing that regime; it would be especially tragic if Cambodians did not feel free to express their views of the Extraordinary Chambers. Meaningful public engagement with the court requires an underlying environment that fosters—not punishes—the free expression of ideas.

Fifth, Cambodia has a shortage of highly qualified lawyers, because the legal profession was nearly wiped out by the Khmer Rouge. Yet, contrary to the practice in other international and hybrid war crimes courts, local law permits only Cambodian lawyers to represent the accused. For the sake of fairness and due process, this rule must be changed for the Extraordinary Chambers so that international lawyers can contribute equally to the defense.

Finally, having generously contributed most of the tribunal's funds, donor governments cannot just sit back and watch. They can best help the court by coordinating their actions, exercising robust oversight, and helping to identify—and, where necessary, solve—problems as they arise.

In addition, they may have to provide additional resources. The court's bare-bones budget of $56 million over three years does not cover basics such as a safe house for protected witnesses, transcripts of court testimony, or a library. It would help if the United States, which has yet to contribute to the Extraordinary Chambers, were to do so.

The Extraordinary Chambers marks a milestone in Cambodia's effort to come to terms with an exceptionally violent period in its past. How the court performs matters deeply to the millions of Cambodians scarred by the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. At the same time, this court is the latest manifestation of an enduring worldwide movement—which extends back to Nuremberg—to end impunity for mass atrocities. Its capacity to render justice should be of paramount concern to us all.

Project Syndicate

Dina Nay, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge killing fields, is executive director of the Khmer Institute of Democracy (KID), and James A. Goldston is executive director of Open Society Justice Initiative.

Perfect career

YOUNG BLOOD

Amabelle Rica R. Lopez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

EXACTLY A WEEK AGO, I DID SOMETHING THAT WILL surely disappoint my parents, raise the eyebrows of my titas, and open me again to mockery by my friends: I again submitted a resignation letter to my employer. I've done the same thing five times since I graduated from college about a year ago, and my friends are saying making resignation letters has become a hobby for me.

I'm only 23 and I already have a long list of short-time work experiences, making my CV three pages long. My mom said that finding and leaving work are just like bar hopping to me. I've been jumping from one company to another, hoping to find the perfect job—something that would exercise my knowledge and creativity and at the same time give me freedom to do whatever I want to do. I know I'm being idealistic but I believe there's really that kind of work waiting for me.

Back in college, most of my classmates thought I was dumb and wrote me off as a failure. Whenever we had a group project or report, nobody wanted to have me in his or her group, fearing I would just pull down their grades.

I couldn't blame them. Who would ever trust a person who would just show up in class when there was quiz or sneak out of the classroom after the attendance had been checked?

But I never thought of myself as a failure. I believed that I was as smart as those boring students on the dean's list. I knew that even if I didn't graduate in college with honors, I would still feel fulfilled because my college days were wonderful. I was able to enjoy my life amid the pressures of university life and got only on failing mark—in Trigonometry—but even that was a learning experience for me. I knew how it felt not only to flunk a subject but also to attend summer classes. And it made me different from my classmates who would cry a tub of tears whenever they got 2.5 in some of their subjects. I didn't worry too much about grades and rankings since I knew they were not essential to living in the real world. I believed that as long as you had your own talent and you knew it, you were already successful in your own way. And I still believe it until now.

The reason I didn't stick to one job is simple: I was not happy in any one of them. In know it sounds like a very shallow reason for jumping from one job to another, but that's the fact. For how can you stay in one company doing the task assigned to you if you're not enjoying what you're doing? How can you concentrate on finishing a business plan if your mind and heart are telling you to do what you enjoy most?

I hate writing resignation letters and handing them to human resource managers. I don't enjoy job-hopping. I don't like being asked what I am doing with my life. I hate it when friends teased about my not being able to stay in one company. But can't these people understand that these companies only offered me money and not the satisfaction I was looking for? Sticking with a well-established company might be an easier way to a comfortable life, but I know I would just be fooling myself. It can never satisfy the hunger inside.

There's only one thing that I really find pleasure in doing, one thing I'll never grow tired of doing over and over again, and that is writing. Whenever I finish an article or a story, I always feel fulfilled and even triumphant. I feel like I had done something great, no matter how lousy the story may be. Great, in the sense that it's my own masterpiece, something that's wholly a product of my creativity and not extracted from me by my supervisors.

I used to work in a publication, and it was one great work experience despite the very low pay. I spent more than a year working there and I honestly enjoyed it there: the pressure of beating the deadlines, the never-ending overtime work, looking over the layouts, etc. But I had to leave that company because at that time, my family was so financially challenged that I had to get out of my comfort zone and find a job that would pay me enough so that I could help my family financially.

I didn't really want to leave. I even tried working part-time as an English instructor for four months, waking up at 3 a.m. and reporting for work as early as 4 a.m. just so I won't lose my writing job. But my body didn't cooperate. I got sick and was bed-ridden for almost a month because of over-fatigue. My mom insisted that I give up my part-time job and eventually I gave up my position in the publication due to financial reasons.

Now I have decided to follow my heart's desire. I will no longer think of the downside of the writing profession. Instead, I will ponder on how happy and fulfilled I will be doing the one thing I love. I will not look for a job that is just an exchange of labor for money. Instead, I will look for a job that will help me grow and develop as a writer.

A job is different from a vocation. A job is something you do for money. Looking for a job is something that society dictates so you'll have food on the table and you can buy the things you need. A vocation, on the other hand, has a much deeper meaning in your life. A vocation is something that you are not obliged to do because your heart and mind are in it. It is something that give you so much satisfaction in doing.

I know writing is my vocation. I knew it from the time our teacher in fourth grade asked us to write a short essay about ourselves. Writing makes my life complete. It fills my life with meaning. Writing allows me to give voice to who I am and what I want to say.

I don't care if most people think there's no money in writing. I don't care if I'd grow old poor, typing my latest piece while most of my friend and colleagues enjoy the luxuries of life. I will die with no regrets because I've spent most of my life doing something that I really love.

All I want is to write as many articles and stories as I can, hoping that I will be able to inspire people around me. With a bit of luck, I hope that through the words I write I will be able to make a difference in some people's lives.

I've already made my choice. I will keep writing until I can't think of anything to write, until my mind becomes exhausted by thinking. I will no longer dwell on what other people say or succumb to pressures around me. I will not let these things kill my dream. I am determined to prove to the world that in doing what I love I will be successful. I don't want to wonder some time how good I could have been at writing stories.

I'm glad to have finally found the perfect career. And this time, I will no longer have to prepare a resignation letter.

Amabelle Rica R. Lopez, 23, is a PR associate and writer for a PR firm.

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Political realities will win over public accountability

WHEN HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER Prospero Nograles justified the majority congressmen's plan to kill the second impeachment bid, he cited political realities. He said if the complaint slipped through the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his allies would be out of their leadership posts. A hostile Senate/impeachment court would definitely convict Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he added.

Nograles was actually implying that De Venecia and the administration allies in the House, including himself, are scared to lose their chairmanships and so they would rather disregard the principle of public accountability.

So, there will be a very clear case of willful obstruction of justice; worse, there will be a betrayal of their constituencies.

So, it will now be OK to commit plunder and cheat your way to the presidency?

—DENNIS LADORES,
80 Cadena de Amor St.,
Pembo, Makati City

No SSS sale to Equitable PCI Bank

PLEASE ALLOW US TO CORRECT AN item in Conrado Banal III's June 20 column "That's my boil." He said a planned impeachment complaint to be filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo will use as basis the "questionable sale of the SSS holdings in Equitable PCI Bank (EPCIB) to the SM group of mall operator Henry Sy."

Banal also said: "For one, why did Malacañang allow SSS to sell its holdings in EPCIB to the SM group at a giveaway price of P47 per share, payable after seven years, with not even a single centavo of downpayment?"

Again, Banal has his facts mixed up. In his March 30 column, he said the sale price was P43. Anyway, in both instances, his figures are wrong.

Under the terms of the Letter of Intent, the SSS would have sold the shares at P43.50, which represented a 30-percent premium over EPCIB's last traded price of P33.50 on Dec. 30, 2003.

Initially, the SSS would have received a cash down payment of P1 billion, the balance to be paid in 6½-year, zero-coupon, non-amortizing notes with combined total face value of about P14 billion. This was subsequently revised in January 2004 to a cash payment of P8 billion.

But the issue is already moot and academic. Under the terms of the Share Purchase Agreement, both parties must agree to the sale on or before June 30, 2004. The deadline was not met and the agreement lapsed.

Banal asked why Malacañang allowed the sale. This is unfair to Malacañang because it is not involved in the investment decisions of the SSS.

The SSS is selling its shares through bidding under the Swiss Challenge procedure. But it has been hampered by a case filed by a group of pensioners with the Supreme Court. The group is questioning the legality of the proposed sale. The SSS is awaiting the decision of the High Tribunal before it could entertain new offers to buy the shares.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Cha-cha: gateway to death chamber

ISN'T GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO Cha-cha (Charter change) train bringing us to the death chamber, after all?

The problem with GMA's Cha-cha is that it cannot prove that a more liberalized, 100-percent tariff-free and foreign-owned/dominated economy will bring about more progress and make life better for the country's poor majority.

No matter what logic—business or political—we apply, the proposal to harmonize our Constitution with globalization policies is like sentencing the nation to death.

The World Trade Organization bandwagon has an undeniably vile reputation for pushing Third World countries into bankruptcy, humongous foreign debts and dire poverty. It will deal no differently with the Philippines once we further strip our Constitution of its remaining nationalist provisions.

Since we entered into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-WTO, we have become dependent on import and export industries. This has led to the demise of many of our local industries. Sure, we can now eat all the M&M candies and chocolates we like, but we hardly have enough locally produced quality rice to feed our people. We have to import such basic commodities, which in the first place we should be capable of producing on our own, to meet our needs.

Inflation has worsened and to cover this up, a two-step VAT increase was forced on us. As a result, the overseas Filipino workers, our unsung heroes—our biggest export—have to work doubly hard to keep their families alive and to sustain the peso.

Come to think of it, there has been an endless stream of proposals to amend our Constitution. The proposals mostly come supposedly from the cream of the crop of economists, among them Ms Arroyo herself. The proposals focus on how to solve the economic crisis, but not one of those suggests the idea of national industrialization; meaning, tapping and developing—on our own, free from the impositions of foreign capitalists—our local industries and resources to meet our needs.

But then, when we cite the flaws of GMA's proposed Cha-cha and make this kind of suggestions, we are labelled as "not-so-intelligent" and "anti-development." Which makes us think that GMA's Cha-cha is a sellout of the national patrimony and, thus, will just lead the Filipino nation to the death chamber.

—Ren Jalaluddin Ropeta,
Vice-Chairperson, Moro-Christian
Peoples' Alliance (MCPA),
Brgy. Central Diliman Q.C.

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP"), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee ("SBAC"), hereby issues this Invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase and assumption of DBP's rights, title, interest and obligations on Assets included in a Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets with total Gross Book Value ("GBV") of approximately Eleven Billion Pesos (PhP11,000,000,000.00) (the "Transaction").

The Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be sold through a sealed-bid public auction process. All interested parties may obtain the detailed Auction Announcement and Registration Package within the period June 26 to 30, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from and at the following address:

THE SECRETARIAT
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Sealed-Bid Public Auction of DBP's Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets
Asset Management Department
Ground Floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Interested parties are required (a) to submit the required Registration Documents specified in the aforementioned Auction Announcement and Registration Package and (b) to pay the non-refundable Due Diligence Fee amounting to US Dollars: Ten Thousand and 00/100 (USD10,000.00) to be considered qualified to participate in the Transaction. A Qualified Bidder may subsequently be disqualified to participate in the Transaction should there be any material and/or intentional misstatement of information in the Registration Documents provided to DBP.

The Pre-Qualification Bidder Conference will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 2006. The said Pre-Qualification Bidder Conference will be held at Suite 5, 12th floor DBP Building. The Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date is at 12:00 noon on July 4, 2006. DBP, in its sole and absolute discretion, reserves the right to accept or decline registration documents received from any interested party after said date. Kindly note that registration documents submitted after the Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date will delay the distribution of the Investor Due Diligence Information Package to the particular potential bidder. The Investor Due Diligence period will start on July 5, 2006 and end on August 29, 2006. The bid for the Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be opened starting at 12:00 noon on August 30, 2006.

DBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY INTERESTED PARTY, PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SUCH PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING PROCESS.

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For any questions and/or additional information, please inquire as follows.

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for the Sealed-Bid Public Auction of DBP's Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets
c/o Asset Management Department
2nd floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200
Telephone no. +632 819 1308 and +632 818 9511 local 2228
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CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Floor Area 777 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 16, San Francisco St., Guadanoville Subd., Novaliches Dist.
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000

LOT 2
WITHDRAWN

LAS PINAS CITY

LOT 3 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 1,708 sqm.
Floor Area 2,174 sqm.
Jose Compd., No. 889 J. Aguilar Ave., Casimiro
Minimum Bid Price 5,500,000

LOT 4 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 69.81 sqm.
Unit 307, 318 Interior Gallery Condo, Alabang Zapote Rd
Minimum Bid Price 1,300,000

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,761 + 8,435 sqm.
Lot 1, Quirino Ave Brgy Pulang Lupa
Minimum Bid Price 60,000,000

MAKATI CITY

LOT 6 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 189.18 sqm.
Unit#102 GF, Le Metropole Condo., Sen Gil Puyat Ave., cor Tordesillas & H V Dela Costa St Salcedo Vill
Minimum Bid Price 10,000,000

LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 550 sqm.
L17 B26 #7761 St Paul Rd San Antonio Village
Minimum Bid Price 9,000,000

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 362 sqm.
Floor Area 1,533 sqm.
#8060 Richworld Center Estrella St San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price 10,000,000

LOT 9 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 34.26 sqm.
Unit G-43 South Star Plaza Condo(Cityland V), South Super Highway Bangkal
Minimum Bid Price 730,000

LOT 10 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 69.91 sqm.
Unit G-3 G/F Westgate Condo, HV Dela Costa & Bautista Sts Salcedo Vill
Minimum Bid Price 3,800,000

LOT 11 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 52.47 sqm.
Unit No P1 (LPH 01), Lower Penthouse, Asian Mansion II Dela Rosa cor Nieva Sts
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 655 sqm.
Floor Area 237 sqm.
Lot 4, P Binay cor Zanzibar St.
Minimum Bid Price 8,500,000

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 250 sqm.
L24 B3 Kalayaan Ave., Brgy Pinagkaisahan
Minimum Bid Price 2,700,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 224.4 sqm.
Floor Area 278.7 sqm.
#3 Lawson St Bo Bagong Silang
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 447 sqm.
Floor Area 1,212 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 507 #122 P Cruz St., Brgy New Zaniga
Minimum Bid Price 7,000,000

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 489 sqm.
Floor Area 1,495.11 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 1, No. 623 Maharlika St. cor Sikap and Malaya Streets, Brgy Plainview
Minimum Bid Price 14,000,000

LOT 17 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 41.11 sqm.
Unit 807-B 8F, Wack-wack Twin Tower (Tower B) Wack Wack Rd., Wack-wack Subd., Brgy H-way Hills
Minimum Bid Price 1,200,000

MANILA

LOT 18
WITHDRAWN

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 259.5 sqm.
Floor Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 19-A #200 Clavel St., San Nicolas Dist
Minimum Bid Price 8,000,000

LOT 20 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 166.45 sqm.
Unit 901, 9F Sunshine Mansion Condo, Aguilar St., Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000

LOT 21 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 106 + 11 sqm.
Unit 15-C 15F, Ocean Tower 2044 Roxas Blvd., Ermita
Minimum Bid Price 4,800,000

LOT 22 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 105.23 sqm.
Unit D-326 3F Landwealth PUDS IV (Metrohomes) Condo, # 1195 Juan Luna St., Pritil, Tondo
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 23 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 36.75 sqm.
Unit 5-D 5F, Southside Mansion, No. 2570 G. Del Pilar, Sta. Ana
Minimum Bid Price 800,000

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 95 sqm.
Floor Area 77 sqm.
Lot 5-C-3-A-1, No. 2 Champaca St., cor 1st Ave., Duplex Compound Brgy Parang
Minimum Bid Price 900,000

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 693 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 2, Soldiers Hills Rd., Brgy. Putatan
Minimum Bid Price 6,000,000

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Floor Area 251 sqm.
L41 B23 No. 114 Solvento Alvendia Ave., South Greenheights Subd Brgy Putatan
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,883 sqm.
Lot 6 & 10 Road Lot Brgy Cupang
Minimum Bid Price 30,000,000

PARANAQUE CITY

LOT 28 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 3,452 sqm.
Floor Area 2,331 sqm.
No. 161 Quirino Ave Baclaran
Minimum Bid Price 60,000,000

LOT 29 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 172.69 sqm.
Unit 2202, 22F Pacific Coast Plaza Condo, Aguinaldo Blvd cor. 1st Villamar
Minimum Bid Price 3,600,000

LOT 30 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area 83 sqm.
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 4 Hamilton Gardens, Better Living Subd
Minimum Bid Price 1,200,000

LOT 31 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area 109.5 sqm.
Floor Area 127 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Hamilton Gardens Better Living Subd
Minimum Bid Price 1,600,000

LOT 32 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 154 sqm.
Unit#1205, 12F, Bayview Int'l. Towers (Tower 3), Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000

LOT 33 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 71.5 + 10 sqm.
Unit 504, 5/F Bayview Intl Tower 3, Roxas Blvd. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000

LOT 34 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 207.5 sqm.
Unit 1502, 15F Bayview Intl Tower 3, Roxas Blvd Brgy Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 6,500,000

LOT 35 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 176 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1202, 12F Bayview Intl Tower 1, Roxas Blvd., Brgy Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,900,000

LOT 36 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 68 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit # 1103-A 11F Bayview Intl Tower 2, Roxas Blvd Brgy Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000

LOT 37 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 153 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1901, 19F, Bayview Intl Tower 2, Roxas Blvd., Brgy Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,200,000

PASAY CITY

LOT 38 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,405 sqm.
Floor Area 1,333 sqm.
Lot 30, # 2710 Figueroa St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price 24,000,000

LOT 39 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 101.73 sqm.
Unit 307, 3F, Jolliland Condo., 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price 2,260,000

LOT 40 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 100.8 sqm.
Unit 305, 3F, Jolliland Condo., 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price 2,240,000

LOT 41 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area 62.5 sqm.
Floor Area 176.1 sqm.
Unit 22, Edsa Mansion 1, Brgy San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 2,100,000

PASIG CITY

LOT 42 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 154.84 sqm.
Units 501 & 502, 5F Pacific Center Condo., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, (with Parking # 62)
Minimum Bid Price 4,500,000

LOT 43 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 127.2 + 12.5 sqm.
Unit 1205, 12/F Horizon Condo Meralco Ave., Ortigas
Minimum Bid Price 4,200,000

LOT 44 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 75.16 sqm.
Unit 2508, 25F Renaissance 2000, Renaissance Center Meralco Avenue Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price 2,300,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,802 sqm.
Floor Area 200 sqm.
No. 97 Visayas Ave Project 6
Minimum Bid Price 50,000,000

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,078.50 sqm.
Lot 986-B-2-B-2, Quirino Highway cor Unnamed Road, Brgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 12,000,000

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 558.1 sqm.
Floor Area 1,110 sqm.
No. 192 Roosevelt Ave Brgy. Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 11,500,000

LOT 48 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 9,858 sqm.
Floor Area 3,766 sqm.
L 150-H No. 173 Gen. Luis cor. Damong Maliit Sts., Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 50,000,000

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 812 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 4, Unnamed Rd., Kapalaran Subd
Minimum Bid Price 4,000,000

LOT 50 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 413.2 sqm.
Floor Area 491 sqm.
Blk LCH-220, Bignay St., Project 2, Quirino District
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000

LOT 51
WITHDRAWN

LOT 52 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 90.5 sqm.
Unit-B, 12F, One Burgundy Plaza Condo, 307 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000

LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 441 sqm.
Floor Area 670 sqm.
L13 Blk S-39, Mindanao Avenue, Neopolitan Subd Pasong Putik
Minimum Bid Price 9,000,000

SAN JUAN

LOT 54 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 446 sqm.
Floor Area 1,230 sqm.
No. 326 Callejon St., Infanta Compound, Brgy Little Baguio, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 10,500,000

LOT 55 - CONDO-RSDL
Lot Area 169.35 sqm.
Unit 304, Goldhill Tower, No. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 56 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 332 sqm.
Lot1 Blk 17, Batangas St. cor. Kona St., Arbortowne Subd., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000

CAVITE

LOT 57 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 70.71 sqm.
Unit 358 Cluster Bato bato Vista De Loro Heights, Puerto Azul, Ternate
Minimum Bid Price 1,200,000

LOT 58 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Floor Area 1,263 sqm.
Lot 4-B 2127 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 12,000,000

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 10-A Brgy Iruhin Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,360,000

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Bishop identifies 'jueteng' operators

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—CATHOLIC Bishop Ramon Villena on Sunday disclosed the identities of suspected operators of the illegal numbers game in the province, as he denounced local and government officials for their supposed incompetence to stop "jueteng" activities here.

In a statement aired over Church-run radio station dwRV, Villena tagged one Roland Villegas, supposedly from Pangasinan, as the alleged financier of jueteng here, which has been on on-and-off operations since early this year.

The bishop made the statement on Sunday after receiving complaints from residents over the proliferation of the illegal lottery in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, which comprise the Diocese of Bayombong.

In Pangasinan, Villegas, president of the Association of Barangay Councils of San Fabian, denied any involvement in supposed jueteng operations in Nueva Vizcaya.

"That's a very far province. I have nothing do with that," said Villegas when reached through his mobile phone.

"Why don't the good bishop focus on his province and try to find who is the real person behind jueteng there?" he said. "Maybe some people in that province are just using my name to mislead the bishop."

Villena also named a Jojo Casabar, a Joe Aleta and a Colonel Abellon as the alleged maintainers of the illegal numbers game and in charge of the "payola" purportedly for local and police officials.

The person in charge of personnel and bet collectors and supervisors was one Alex Mauricio, the bishop claimed.

"General (Arturo) Lomibao (Philippine National Police chief) himself confirmed to me that he is quite familiar with the names I mentioned," Villena told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

The bishop blamed some provincial and police officials, who, he said, are "inept," "corrupt" and were "greedy for (bribe) money," for the proliferation of jueteng.

"If there are inept (police officials), then more than that, we have inept political officials. If the (PNP) and the local officials will work together in all seriousness, I am sure jueteng will never thrive," he said.

"But if they are in connivance, or they are corrupt or they are weaklings, they can't stop jueteng," he added.

He also questioned why Vice Gov. Jose Gambito, in Wednesday's session of the provincial board, supposedly got irked when board members pushed for the approval of resolutions on the illegal gambling operations in the province.

Board members had moved for the passage of separate resolutions condemning the jueteng activities and summoning Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, acting provincial police director.

Gambito, however, denied that he blew his top during the session, and clarified that he "blocked only the resolution of condemnation, not the summons."

"I only gave a lecture, telling (the board members) that no one among us is faultless, (and that) they should not pretend to be clean because everyone got his or her share at one time or the other," he said.

Sought for comment, Damazo stopped short of telling Villena to file a complaint against the alleged maintainers.

"Let those people who implicated these (alleged) maintainers, operators, and the others involved to come to my office and give statements of facts," he said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Melvin Gascon with a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov wants Bulusan folk permanently moved out

SORSOGON CITY—SORSOGON Gov. Raul Lee is pushing for the permanent settlement of evacuees out of the permanent danger zone (PDZ) areas of Mt. Bulusan.

"We could only put to rest the issue of uncertainty that goes with the unpredictability of the Mt. Bulusan if we relocate and provide permanent resettlement to families affected. We cannot go on like this for a prolonged period, given the government resources," Lee told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

He said the provincial government was mobilizing all the resources it had to respond to the situation of Mt. Bulusan but, he said, this could not be sustained.

Mayor Ma. Theresa Guab-Fragata of Juban, the most affected area, said the permanent resettlement of families within the PDZ was a welcome solution.

Relocation sites

Guab-Fragata said she had already identified initially the possible relocation sites outside the PDZ that included the villages of Lahoy, Tughan, Embarcadero and Tabok.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said rains are to continue around the volcano although tropical storm "Domeng" is starting to leave the country.

Guab-Fragata said it would be very difficult for the local government unit (LGU) of Juban to carry out the permanent resettlement of families without support from the national government.

Guab-Fragata said their LGU could only do so much to meet the requirements of resettling 192 farming families residing in the villages of Puting-Sapa and Aniog, the villages within the lahar path.

She said it would entail comprehensive planning to permanently resettle farming families because they will be uprooted from their places where they earn their livelihood so that providing them new sources of income is a tall order aside from the expected costs of building them new homes.

Insufficient funds

Guab-Fragata said operations to protect residents are draining the town's funds.

She said calamity funds are disbursed on a quarterly basis and that what they have to spend now must not go beyond 5 percent of the internal revenue allotment of the LGU.

She said even the reality of resettling the affected families out of the PDZ areas had dawned on her when she observed that the evacuees feared returning to their homes.

The mayor said the volcanic activity had displaced their regular governance operations.

She said the permanent resettlement of almost 200 families is the big challenge now when the local government has only P1.2 million calamity funds left this year.

Mayor Edwin Hamor of Casiguran town also welcomed the suggestion of the governor, saying he would endorse to the town council the approval of establishing a resettlement area for the families within the danger zone. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NINO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CHILD evacuees peer out of a door of the Sorsogon provincial nursery where they were moved out of the way of lahar and a possible eruption of Bulusan. Thousands have been evacuated as the volcano continues to spew ash and debris although volcanologists said a major eruption was not imminent yet.

ROUNDUP

Mangyan NPA gives up

LUCENA CITY—A Mangyan tribesman and a member of the communist New People's Army on Mindoro island surrendered to government forces last Tuesday, the military said. Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, identified the Mangyan rebel as Rolly Fugoso alias "Ka Mar," reportedly a key member of the NPA's Kilusang Larangang Gerilya-Isla Command based on the island. The rebel returnee turned himself in to 2Lt. Orville Lapada, commander of Charlie Company of the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 soldiers in pilferage

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A ranking Army official and a sergeant were arrested in connection with the pilferage of ammunition inside the military's Southern Command headquarters here, the military announced yesterday. Col. Antonio Supnet, Southern Command's chief of staff, said that Maj. Rauline Diploma, an ammunition officer and Sgt. Benido Damacino, a supply officer, were caught in possession of a large amount of ammunition on Tuesday during a surprise inspection. Diploma and Damacino are both assigned to the 9th Forward Service Support Unit (FSSU) of the Army Support Command (ASCOM) here. Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon said it was Maj. Gen. Ernesto Boac, ASCOM commander, who sought assistance in connection with suspected pilferage at the munitions warehouse here. Damacino turned over 500 rounds of cal. .45 bullets when he learned he was being investigated.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Labor chief guest speaker

SAN PABLO CITY—New Labor Secretary Arturo D. Brion will be the guest of honor and speaker at a seminar for the San Pablo City Tripartite Industrial Peace Council to be held here on July 7 at the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlungsod at the City Hall compound here.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro adopts Tiangco

CITY OF CALAPAN—After the GMA 7 Kapuso Foundation "adopted schools" under the Department of Education's program, veteran broadcaster Mel Tiangco, foundation executive vice president and chief operations officer, was declared adopted daughter of Oriental Mindoro, according to a resolution passed on June 14 by the provincial board. The municipal board of Mansalay town, southern part of the province, also thanked the GMA 7 Kapuso Foundation for turning over 36 classrooms—12 new and 24 repaired—to seven public elementary schools in the municipality. The classrooms were inaugurated on June 14.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police impound log cargo

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police Tuesday held a cargo truck loaded with 7,000 board feet of lumber on suspicion the shipment was illegal. Insp. Charlie Saladas, Tinagacan police precinct chief, said the lumber came from Davao Oriental. He said that initially, the driver and the helper of the truck told them that the cargo consisted of fertilizers. Saladas said they demanded documents after finding out the cargo were lumber. He said the driver presented "questionable documents" prompting the police to impound the truck and the lumber.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Future of Sorsogon veggie farmers bleak after ash fall

JUBAN, SORSOGON—NO ONE still can say what awaits vegetables farmers here in the future once Bulusan Volcano hibernates again, except that it will certainly be a bleak one for them.

Josefino Gripon, president of the Puting-Sapa Upland Farmers Association, said their farms had almost been wiped out by the thick ash fall from the volcano, save for about half a hectare.

"Many of our members derive livelihood solely from these vegetable farms, which are now blanketed by ashes," Gripon said.

Frequent rains failed to wash off the ashes deposited on the plants despite the lapse of six days after the last explosion the INQUIRER observed when it visited the area.

Vegetable farms in Puting-Sapa cover a total land area of at least 30 hectares, divided in varying sizes among the families residing in the barangay, Gripon added.

Most of the farmers plant *pechay*, eggplant, sweet potato, *ampalaya* and other cash crops that are easy to market.

In Barangay Aniog, farmers are not as lucky, said village chief Felimon Buban, himself a vegetable farmer.

Nothing was saved from the nine-hectare land being tilled by his constituents when the volcano exploded.

Buban said many of the plants were already approaching maturity stage but the farmers were unable to harvest.

Corazon Liao, a mother of 10, said their farm is now a total loss since most of their plants were just starting to either bear fruit or approach maturity.

They are now staying at the evacuation center.

Gripon and Buban were one in saying that they didn't worry much about the daily sustenance of their constituents yet as most of them were now housed in various evacuation centers.

"But after this calamity has died down, what then?" they asked.

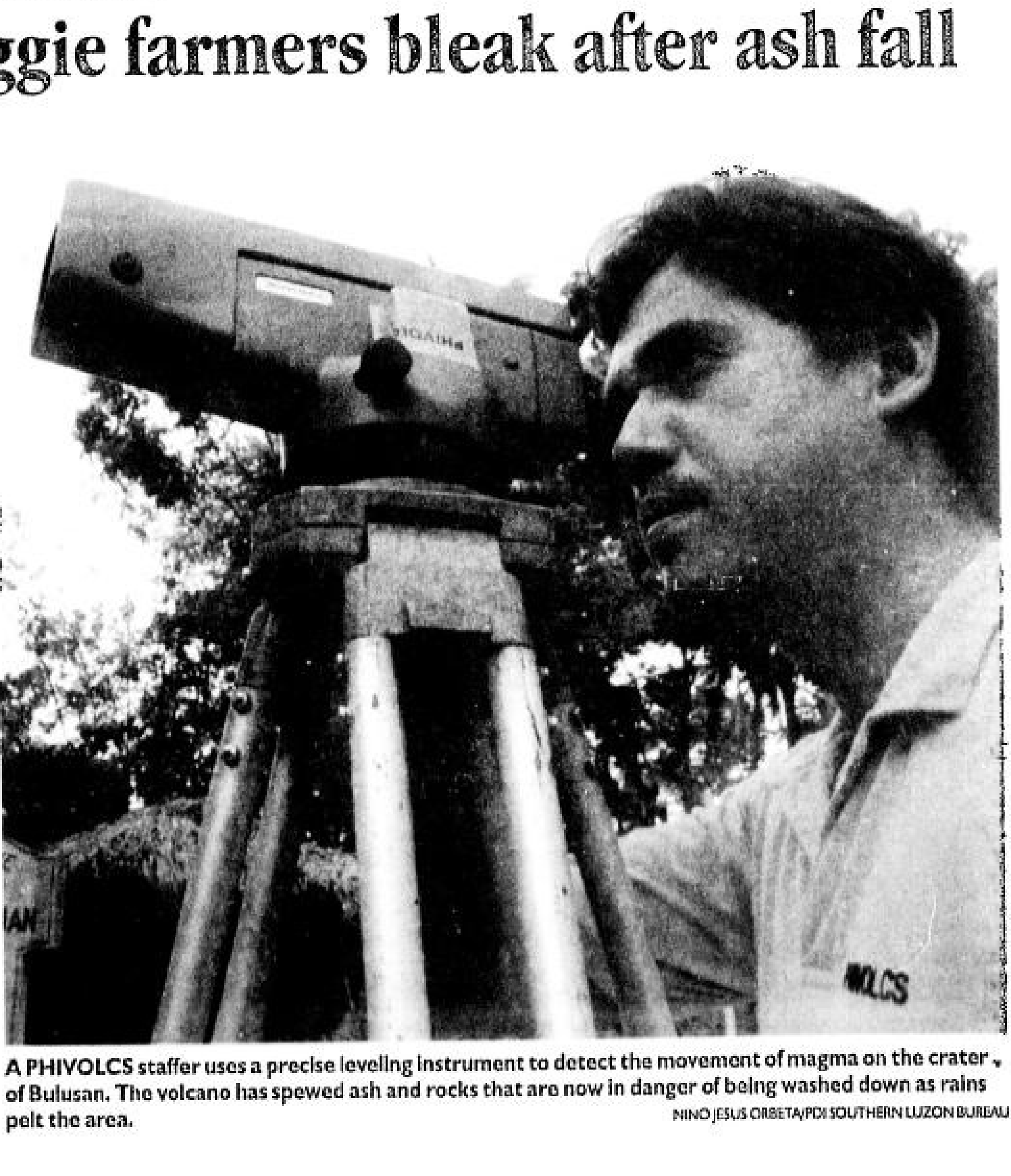
Liao said this early they were already starting to think of possible sources of capital to be used in rehabilitating their farm but they could not come up with a sure one.

"We put in at least P5,000 from the proceeds of the last cropping as capital, but now it's gone," she said.

Buban said at least P30,000 to P40,000 was needed to develop a one-hectare farm.

Municipal agriculturist Renato Escote said the municipal government usually gives out vegetable seeds to the farmers under its food security program.

Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata said the plight of the farmers would be included in the relief and rehabilitation plan that the LGU will come up once the danger from the volcano has waned. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



A PHIVOLCS staffer uses a precise leveling instrument to detect the movement of magma on the crater of Bulusan. The volcano has spewed ash and rocks that are now in danger of being washed down as rains pelt the area.

NINO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Conflict tears apart Pinatubo housing settlers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—IN A test case for 24 Mt. Pinatubo resettlements in Central Luzon, several settlers at the Madapdap resettlement in Mabalacat, Pampanga, have asked the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) here to dissolve their homeowners association (HOA) over alleged misuse of funds.

Monday's pre-trial failed to proceed as the Madapdap HOA officers has yet to formally reply to the May 18 complaint filed by the settlers, HLURB regional legal officer Jose Atencio said.

Madapdap HOA president Fernando Cabalza reported receiving the copy of the complaint on June 17 and invoked the right to reply within 20 days from thereon.

Madapdap is the biggest housing site that government built for residents displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions.

Records from the defunct Mt. Pinatubo Commission showed that at least 7,282 homes had been built there. Located in Barangay Dapdap, the site hosts about 45,000 people, mostly from Bacolor and Porac towns in Pampanga.

Atencio said that while the HLURB would settle the issue of alleged noncompliance of the Madapdap HOA with the agency's rules on reporting and transparency, the complaint brought an underlying issue affecting other HOAs in Pinatubo sites.

It concerns this: Between the HOAs and the barangay councils, which has greater authority in the affairs and resources of the resettlements?

Recent events showed that the conflict was more pronounced in the case of Madapdap, and the complaint at the HLURB appeared to be a mere offshoot of that.

For one, the Madapdap HOA asserted its right to possess a multipurpose hall being used by the barangay council. When Dapdap Barangay Captain Javier Taruc refused to give that up on the basis that it remained for public use, he got a three-month preventive suspension from the town council.

Based on a resolution by the town council, Mayor Marino Morales on June 23 suspended Taruc for six months for abuse of authority.

Taruc said that although the HOA had been organized by the MPC in 2001, it has not been fully operational since. He said the barangay council has attended to the sanitation and health services as well as peace and order concerns of the settlers since their transfer there in 1996.

Dapdap used to have only less than 1,000 families before the transfer, he said.

In 2004, he said the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which took over the MPC's unfinished tasks, transferred the jurisdiction of the resettlements to the local governments.

The complainants said the "existence of the HOA does not serve the needs and interest of the residents of the Madapdap resettlement."

The complainants did not say, however, if they wanted to form a new HOA or yield the management of the resettlement to the barangay council. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SULU villagers walk on the beach of Parang town unmindful of a high technology vessel of the US Navy docked several hundred meters off shore. The Joint Venture was brought to the province to help in the operations of the hospital ship USNS Mercy that provided free medical and dental services to known lairs of terrorist groups in Mindanao.

TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Women crew members can't work on US Navy vessel

ZAMBOANGA CITY—LIKE ANY other ship, the High Speed Vessel (HSV) Joint Venture of the United States Navy is a "she" but its commander said it was not intended for female Navy personnel.

The vessel, which has a speed of about 30 knots per hour, is being used to transport equipment and personnel.

It recently docked here to deliver school and medical supplies for the US military medical mission that offered free medical and dental services to residents of Tawi-Tawi and Basilan, known lairs of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

HSV Joint Venture chief Commander Thomas Shaw said the vessel has about 80 crew members.

"But it's an all male crew," Shaw said.

Explaining why the vessel has no female crew member, Shaw said it would be difficult to accommodate members of the other sex because of the way the vessel was built.

"The ship is too small. Its spaces are made to handle males only. It would not be possible for men and women to live in such small spaces together," he said.

Shaw said they were not discriminating against female Navy personnel but "we don't have any accommodation for them aboard."

He said even the showers were constructed in a way fitted for males only.

"It's wide open. So just imagine (if a female takes a bath)," he said.

US Navy Commander Katy Wright, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP), said female crew members could be accommodated in many Navy ships.

She said the US Navy was not discriminating against women.

"Except for this ship," Shaw said in jest. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Cops kill 3 hijacking suspects in gunfight

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Three suspected hijackers were killed in a clash with elements of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) of the Calabarzon police in Padre Garcia, Batangas early Monday, police said.

Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, Batangas police director, said the slain men remained unidentified.

Montenegro said two of the suspects died on the spot while the other died while being rushed to a nearby hospital.

"We are still checking on the identities of the suspects," Montenegro said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Montenegro said that a few hours before the clash took place at around 3 a.m., they received information that a truck containing P2.5 million worth of Bear Brand milk products was forcibly taken by armed men in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Tied, heads covered

He said the suspects left the truck driver and his helper inside a Toyota Corolla car in Barangay Tiquiwan in Rosario town.

"The driver and the helper were tied and their heads were covered by bonnets," he said.

Senior Insp. Michael Saturnino, head of the special operations group of TMG-Calabarzon, said their operations center at this camp received a phone call about the hijacking in Cabuyao.

Upon the instruction of their chief, Senior Supt. Joel Orduña, Saturnino said police immediately scoured the main exit and entry points of delivery trucks in Laguna, Cavite and Batangas provinces.

"After we received information that the hijacked truck was seen somewhere in Batangas, we quickly alerted all police units in the area. We then learned that the subject truck was in Padre Garcia," Saturnino told the INQUIRER.

Gunfight

He said at a checkpoint along a dimly road in Barangay Castillo at around 3 a.m., they noticed at least three men talking at the back of a parked six-wheel truck.

When the police tried to check on the men, the suspects allegedly fired at them, triggering the gunfight.

"We were left with no other option but to shoot back," Saturnino said.

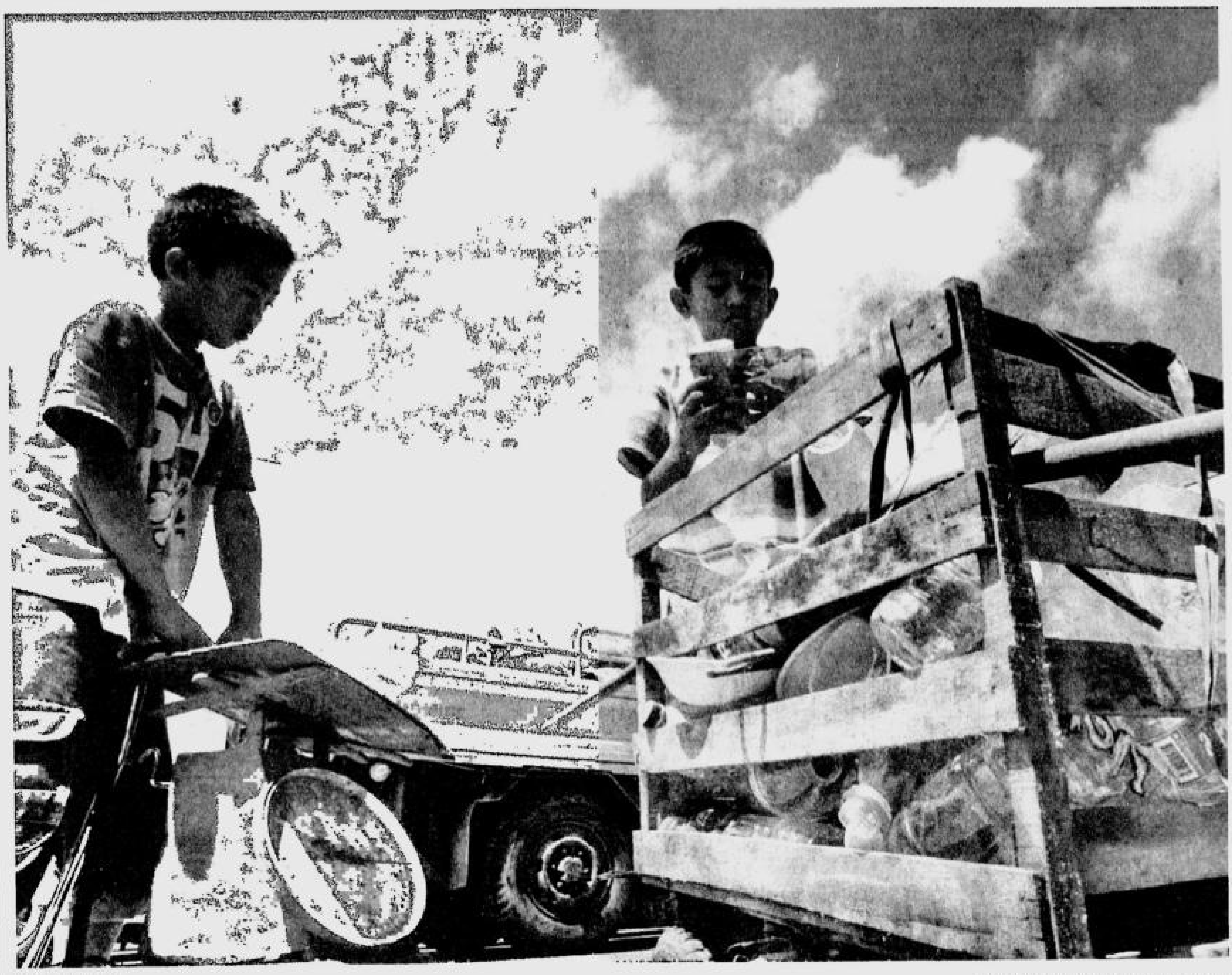
At least two other suspects were able to escape, he said.

He said recovered from the crime scene were the hijacked truck and an Isuzu Trooper believed to have been used as the lead vehicle of the suspects.

Found from the suspects were an M-16 rifle, a .45-cal. pistol and a .38-cal. revolver.

Saturnino said the suspects belonged to the Mejas highway robbery group that preys on trucking companies in Calabarzon and nearby towns in Metro Manila.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



JUNKYARD

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

It's a day's work completed for two children in a junkyard shop in Benguet. The children had just finished collecting recyclable materials from trash piles around La Trinidad town, the country's vegetable capital, and deposited these for sorting in a junkyard. They do this to help their families cope with daily needs.

Ma appeals to son's kidnappers: He's sick

COTABATO CITY—THE MOTHER of an 11-year-old boy who was abducted in Parang, Maguindanao has appealed to her son's captors to free him "because he is sick and we are not capable of paying any ransom."

Analyn Degracia, mother of Chris Kurt, Grade 6 pupil at the Sarmiento Central Pilot School, said her son is also suffering from asthma.

"Have mercy on us, please free my son, we have suffered sleepless nights, my son's grandma was hospitalized because of what had happened," Analyn said in between sobs over Church-run radio station dxMS.

"Even if you demand ransom, we cannot pay," she added.

The victim's family still has to receive word from the abductors.

Three gunmen on board a blue car entered the school campus at about 2 p.m. on Friday. One of them barged into the classroom of Grade 6 teacher Myrna Bueno and poked a gun at her, telling her not to make any move. Two other armed men seized Kurt who was surprised and cried, yelling for help. The teacher attempted to intervene but was pushed away by one of the suspects.

Bueno, Kurt's class adviser, said she did not notice the approaching gunmen as she was writing on the blackboard.

Immediately, the suspects forced the boy into a getaway car and sped toward North Cotabato.

Responding policemen and Parang Mayor Talib Abo found the car partly burned in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato.

The Degracias, owner of hardware stores in Parang, lost a daughter due to dengue early this year and the couple is yet to recover from the loss when Kurt, the eldest of two siblings, was abducted.

"The wound (of losing a daughter) is yet to heal, and now here's another wound," Analyn said in Filipino.

Kidnappings in some parts of the Mindanao have been blamed on the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf, but some of the bigger cases were believed to be the work of the Pentagon Gang.

Kidnapping carries a penalty of death but the capital punishment was abolished when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law a bill removing it.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it sees more killings of critics of the Arroyo administration following the abolition of the death penalty.

Khaled Musa, MILF committee on information deputy chief, made the prediction Monday as summary executions continue in the country.

Musa also said the number of heinous crimes would rise dramatically because the deterrent to such crimes has been abolished.

Republic Act No. 7659, of the Death Penalty Law, was re-imposed by Congress in 1993, and Republic Act No. 8177, prescribes death by lethal injection for those convicted of heinous crimes.

The abolition of capital punishment benefited more than 1,200 death-row convicts—including at least 11 al-Qaida-linked militants.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Subic investors wary over killing of businessman in freeport

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A group of investors has expressed alarm over the recent ambush-killing of a businessman and his aide inside the freeport, saying it has caused tension in the business community.

Jimmy Vicente, secretary general of the Automotive Rebuilders Association of Subic (Aris), said the murder of Uldarico Tubig, 45, and his security aide, Rommel Pineda, had frightened Subic locators.

Vicente said Tubig worked as a broker for at least 85 percent of companies selling used vehicles here. "Anybody here has a reason to be wary and fearful," Vicente said.

The victims were killed on Friday by five gunmen in Tubig's office on Boton Highway. Another security aide, Dan Garin, survived the attack.

Police investigators are eyeing business rivalry and personal grudge as motives of the attack.

Jose Calimlim, senior deputy administrator for operations of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), said port security had already been beefed up.

"We have intensified security measures as we continue to hunt down the suspects," Calimlim said. "We have deployed more mobile patrols."

He said police had identified the suspects but declined to give details.

The license plate number of the car used by the assailants had also been identified, he said.

"SBMA security personnel reported that the getaway car never exited the freeport and it is likely that it is still here," he said.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

8-YEAR EXCESS CHARGES

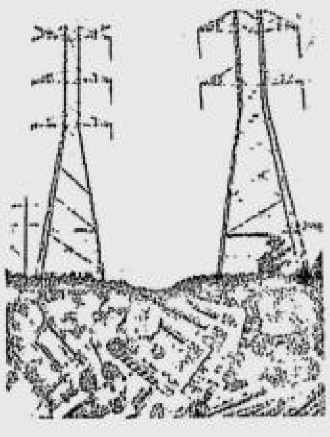
Ilocos power cooperative to return ₱102M

LAOAG CITY—MORE THAN A year after it was found to have overcharged its consumers by P102 million, the electric cooperative here has agreed to refund consumers for an eight-year period beginning September this year.

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) has been under criticism from power consumers due to its alleged refusal to return the amount, which the Energy Regulation Commission said it overcharged from 1996 to 2004.

Lorenzo Rey Ruiz, president of the Inec board of directors, said the delay in complying with the refund order was a result of several clarificatory petitions that Inec had submitted with the ERC in the manner of paying power consumers.

"After a very difficult decision and in response to public clamor, we have decided to return the amount to our consumers for a period of 102 months," Ruiz said during a special board meeting last Friday.



"We did not deliberately cause the delay. We asked the ERC to provide us a guideline on how the refund can be implemented because the order was silent on the time frame (within which to begin payment) and who would be covered (by the refund)," Ruiz said.

He said the cooperative would also withdraw its petition that it had filed with the ERC seeking a payment scheme of 20 years, which would begin after a five-year moratorium period.

Based on the ERC order released in May last year, Inec would have started paying its consumers as soon as it received the order for a period of 150 months.

Inec, however, filed a petition in February this year inquiring on the manner and period of payment and the number of beneficiaries of the refund. The ERC has yet to act on the petition.

"We do not wish to alienate Inec from our consumers. We are taking action upon ourselves and decided to implement the refund without waiting for ERC's reply to our petition," Ruiz said.

He brushed aside speculations that Inec's swift action was a result of constant pressure that Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. applied on the cooperative.

Marcos had publicly admonished Inec officials for their alleged deliberate attempt to delay the payment.

The board said the refund would take effect not later than September, noting that there was a need to look into the number of consumers that are entitled to the amount and the mode of payment whether in the form of cash or a rebate on consumers' bills.

Romillas Pascual, Inec general manager, said not all 105,372 consumers are entitled to the amount, noting that the period when there was excess in collections started only in 1996.

"We need to reconcile our records so that only those entitled to the amount shall receive payments," he said.

Pascual said the over recovery of power rates cropped up as a result of varying formula in computing power rates under the power purchase adjustment from the then Energy Regulation Board.

"This problem of overcharging is not specific to Inec. Other cooperatives are similarly situated," he added.

Board member Jeffrey Nalupta, who was assigned to study the payment scheme, said the board would have to look into Inec's financial records and identify where the refund shall be drawn so that the cooperative will not end up insolvent. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Organic farming focus of Benguet school rites

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Billed as the country's first organic farming university, the Benguet State University (BSU) made organic agriculture a major part of its 90th foundation day celebration, which started yesterday.

Organically produced vegetables are on display up to June 30, and guests could enjoy two of the school's major treats—a taste of organic tea or coffee and a tour of the so-called "Seven Healing Gardens."

Dr. Rogelio Colting, BSU president, said the weeklong celebration would showcase, among other achievements, the school's efforts to help Cordillera farmers shift to organic farming.

"We intend to serve organic drinks, like tea and coffee produced from the school's farms, to selected guests," he said.

"The production of organic arabica coffee and herbal tea will show our commitment to organic farming since we intended to go large scale in the production of organic vegetables, meals and snacks in the future," Colting said.

Dr. Marlene Atinyao, dean of the BSU's College of Agriculture, said seven major organically produced crops were being grown in the Seven Healing Gardens.

"It is called a healing garden because of the positive energy one would receive from the aroma or scent of the plants," she said. "And the fact that they are grown organically will make the consumers healthy."

Set on a 200-sq m lot, the gardens grow six crops separately in six areas—flowers, cactus, fruit trees, herbs, vegetables and salad greens.

The seventh garden is actually the "spirulina pond" at the center. The pond is shaped "7." The spirulina is a single cell alga that promises medicinal values, including cancer cure, Atinyao said.

Christopher Deponio, the garden manager, said all the crops were being grown without the help of synthetic inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides.

Colting said the school had to consider becoming an organic farming university because of the demands of globalization.

"Our farmers have to learn organic agriculture since it is the only means they could compete with the arrival of foreign products brought about by free trade," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Health execs fear 'hidden, growing' AIDS threat

THE PHILIPPINES IS RIFE WITH the ingredients for an AIDS disaster: an active sex industry that draws foreign tourists, with the dominant Roman Catholic church's stance against contraceptives contributing to relatively low condom use.

But it hasn't happened—at least not yet. No one is calling it a success story, however. Some officials worry that the sprawling archipelago may just have been just lucky so far with a number of factors contributing to keeping down the number of HIV/AIDS cases, while others fear that actual cases are greater than surveys and estimates indicate.

The national AIDS registry listed 2,499 confirmed HIV infections and AIDS cases in January 1984-April 2006. The Department of Health estimated the actual number of people with HIV/AIDS at 11,168 this year—a tiny number for a country with a population of 85 million.

A joint study by the World Health Organization and the Health Department in 2000 said the low prevalence of HIV/AIDS could possibly be attributed to many sex workers having only a few regular partners and that the majority of the male population have only one sex partner.

It said also only a few males engaged in anal sex and the number of injecting drug users is small. In addition, almost all Filipino males are circumcised—which some researchers believe cut down on transmission of HIV—and the country is an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands, hampering transmission of any pandemic.

The Health Department's latest estimate may still be a "conservative figure," according to Dr. James Piad, a medical specialist with the Philippine National AIDS Council, which plots counter-AIDS strategies for the country and has warned of a "hidden and growing" threat.

"Right now, what we see is that it is increasing among the high-risk groups in the Philippines—commercial sex workers, their clients, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men," he said, noting that sexual intercourse accounted for 86 percent of all infections.

A UNAIDS report released recently said the "very limited epidemic" in the Philippines could turn bad as a result of low condom use, high levels of sexually transmitted infections and rising numbers injecting drug users who share needles.

"If it (the number of cases) is really low, well and good, but it is scary to think that that is only what we see though we have all the conditions that could actually trigger an epidemic," said Mara Quesada, program officer for the nongovernment organization Action for Health Initiatives. "We only want that we don't treat the numbers as a license to be lax."

A survey last year showed an average of only 57 percent of female sex workers in 10 key Philippine cities used condoms consistently. About 12 percent of sexually active men ages 15-24 used condoms the first time they had sex, it said.

There is also widespread lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, with 60 percent of young people surveyed in 2002 saying they were invulnerable to the disease.

Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, said he was aware that agencies and AIDS prevention groups may be watching out for the "tipping point" that will drive an epidemic.

"But instead of looking for the tipping point, everything that may give rise to this tipping point, we are addressing," he said.

He said the government plans to establish counseling centers and laboratories where people who suspect they have HIV will be encouraged to undergo rapid testing and receive immediate counseling if found positive. The government also is stocking up on antiretroviral drugs, he said.

Health workers and AIDS activists agree that one major obstacle to getting a clearer picture of the actual situation in the country, and thus prevent the further spread of the disease, is the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS.

Piad of the National AIDS Council said the stigma can turn violent, citing a case where villagers tried to burn down the house of a couple who died of AIDS with their three young children inside in Pampanga province. In another, a man barely escaped a lynch mob that drove him out of his home in Manila after the local community leader learned he had HIV.

The strong influence of the Roman Catholic church also prevents more people from using condoms because it has equated it with contraception and promoting sex, Piad said. *AP*

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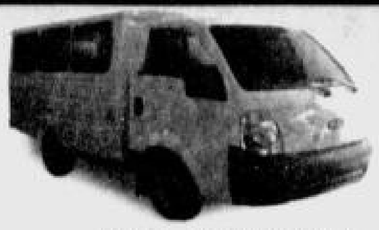
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SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

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NBI nabs 2 alleged gun suppliers of robbery gangs

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation officials present to media Salvador Morante and Reynaldo Marzan, alleged members of a syndicate supplying firearms to armed robbery groups and rival gangs. REM ZAMORA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO MEMBERS OF A SYNDICATE allegedly supplying guns to armed robbery groups and teen gangs were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) while selling high-powered handguns to an undercover agent last Saturday in Sampaloc, Manila.

Suspects Salvador Morante and Reynaldo Marzan, both of Cristobal Street, Sampaloc, Manila, now face charges of illegal possession of firearms before the City Prosecutor of Manila, according to NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring.

Mantaring said five Magnum .22 revolvers, two .38 caliber revolvers and a .45 caliber pistol were seized from the suspects during the buy-bust operation.

"The handguns confiscated from the suspects are very powerful," Mantaring said in a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

He added that the .22 caliber revolvers, a favorite weapon of robbers and teen gangs, could easily be concealed during criminal activities.

Regional Director Ruel Lasala, NBI National Capital Region (NCR) Office, said a member of an armed robbery group operating in Metro Manila had informed the bureau that his accomplices and their rivals bought their firearms from the suspects.

"Out-of-school teenagers based in Sampaloc and Tondo, Manila, who styled themselves after African-American gangsters in the United States, also bought guns from Morante and Marzan and frequently used these during their violent confrontations," Lasala said.

Unlicensed recruiter arrested

Soldiers hired to work in Iraq, Afghanistan

By Margaux C. Ortiz

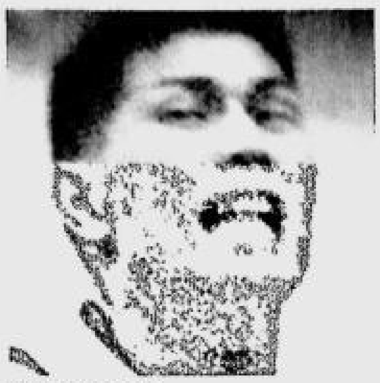
AN UNLICENSED FILIPINO-AMERICAN labor recruiter was arrested in an entrapment operation last Saturday for sending more than a hundred retired or AWOL (absent without official leave) soldiers, including two colonels, to work in the war-torn country of Iraq in 2004. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acting director Nestor Mantaring identified the suspect as Mark Rae Villacruzes, a resident of 1335 F. Santos Avenue in Zapote, Las Piñas City.

During the operation, the NBI discovered that the suspect was also reportedly recruiting Filipinos for deployment to Afghanistan as para-military personnel. There is a government ban on the hiring of workers for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

An investigation conducted by the NBI Special Action Unit revealed that the suspect had recruited complainants Leonido Battaler, Romeo Borela, Avelino Dimacutac, Wilson Flores, Romeo Kalaw Jr., Nestor Mora, Efren Poster, Benjamin Rempis Jr., and Richard Saplala in March 2004 who were told that they would guard US-owned buildings and installations in Iraq with a monthly salary of US$1,000.

After six months, the complainants came home and learned that they were entitled to receive an additional US$1,500 as war compensation. They said they tried but failed to contact Villacruzes to ask him about the extra pay. The suspect faces charges for violation of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995. Meanwhile, a recruitment agency official who declined to be identified, said US contractors had been tapping soldiers and policemen to work in Iraq. The hired men leave the country via the Mactan International Airport in Cebu City, the source added. *With Jerome Aning*

WHAT'S INSIDE


CHRIS Calaguio

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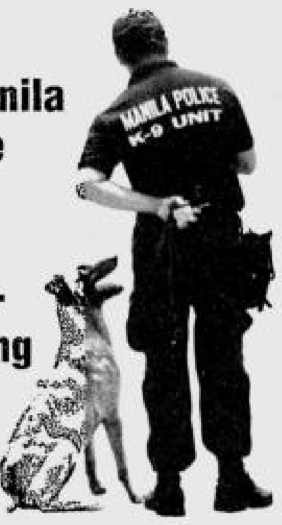

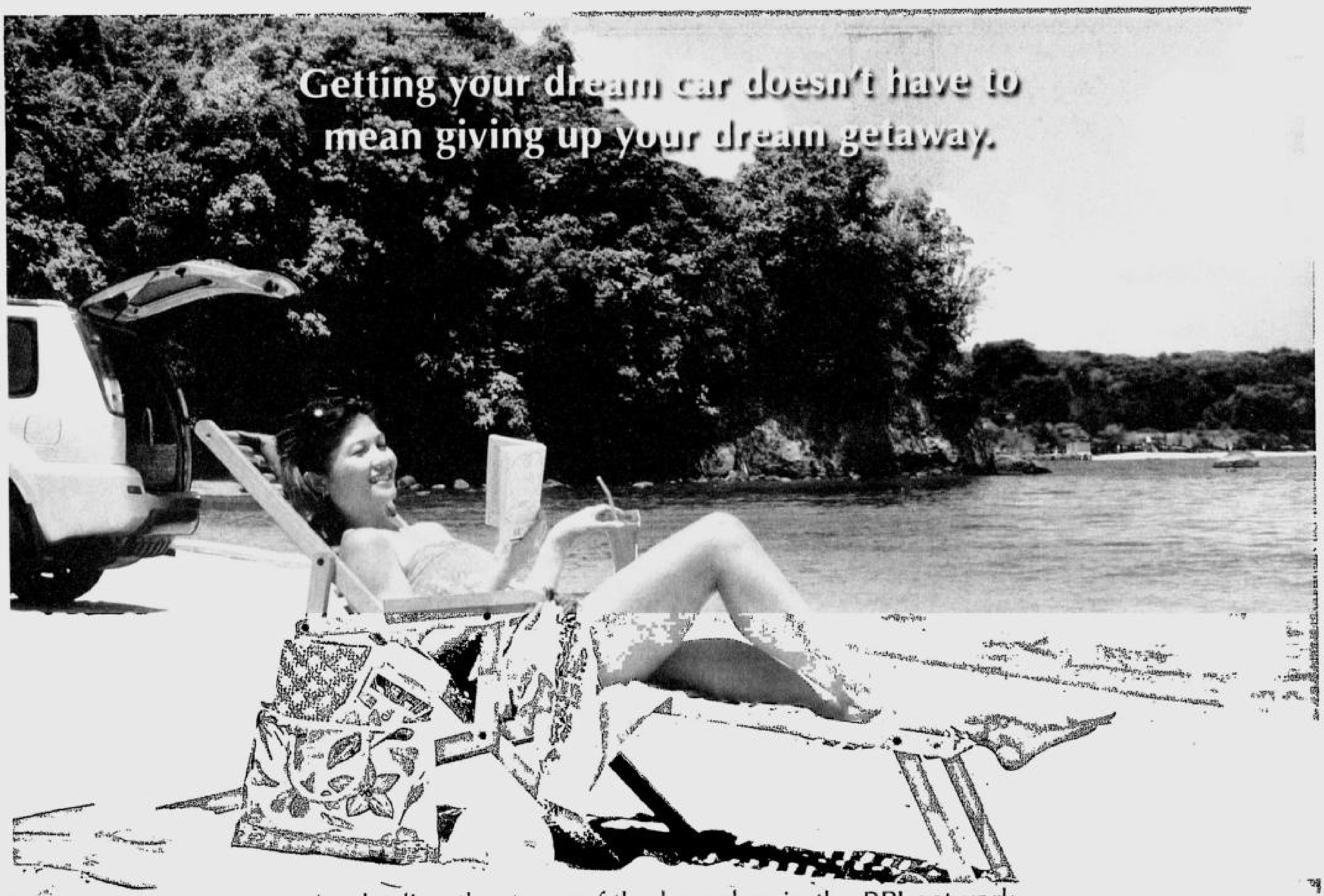
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Drive your Dream

What happened to park steel marker, benches?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE PRESIDENT OF A FOUNDATION THAT had acted as caretaker of the controversial Arroceros Park in Manila yesterday reported the removal of their group's steel marker and two benches that had been donated to the park.

"The marker was put up in 1994 to give credit to those who created the concept of a forest park in the middle of a busy city," Winner Foundation president Regina Paterno, told the INQUIRER.

She said she and her colleagues were dismayed to see that the marker had been taken down a few days after the inauguration of a two-story teachers' building in the park.

"The marker was designed by architect Wilfredo Dizon, then president of the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects," Paterno added. The foundation president added that two concrete benches donated by National Artist Alejandro Roces and former Manila vice mayor Jesus Marcos Roces to the park had disappeared. "We could not find the benches after visiting the park last Sunday," Paterno said. "We fear they would dismantle National Artist Napoleon Abueva's donated bench next."

Paterno also said they would be filing a report with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regarding the loss of additional trees at the park.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, meanwhile, refused to comment on the issue and referred the INQUIRER to City Engineer Armand Andres. The official said he was not aware that the two benches Paterno was referring to had disappeared.

"I will replace them if needed," Andres said, explaining that construction work in the park was still ongoing even though the teachers' building had already been completed. As for the marker, Andres said they would move it to a better place inside the park.

METROBRIEFS

Singer's concert cancelled

"TELL me quando, quando, quando." Fans of British pop singer Englebert Humperdinck are probably asking this question after his concert today at the Araneta Coliseum was cancelled. Viva Entertainment, which is mounting the concert, announced the postponement on Sunday, the day the singer was supposed to arrive in the country. According to Viva, the singer was suddenly taken ill. Ticket holders were advised to hold on to their tickets, which will be honored when the show finally pushes through. A new concert date will be announced shortly, the promoter said. Humperdinck has scheduled a series of tours this year to celebrate his 40 years in the music industry. His greatest hits include "Please Release Me" and "Quando, Quando, Quando." Both songs and four other Englebert hits have been transformed into dance beats in his new album "Thunderpuss 2000." *Nini Valera*

Basketball player robbed

CALAGUIO

SHOOTING guard Chris Calaguio was busy scoring points for his basketball team while his wife and child were watching the game at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Sunday night. He scored 13 points, helping the San Miguel Beermen chalk up another win against Red Bull, tying a best-of-seven series. When the Calaguios came home that night, however, the assorted bags his wife Meral, 28, was selling and several grocery items stored in the kitchen were missing. Their newly-hired helper had also disappeared. PO3 Edwin Arce told the Inquirer that Calaguio and his family, with one of their helpers, had left their house on Manhattan Street in Provident Village, Marikina City at around 12:30 p.m. They left Joy, whom they had hired only last month, to look after the house. But she and the items were gone when Calaguio and his family returned at 7:30 p.m. "She had been probably waiting for the right time to cart away valuables from the house," Arce added. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Woman returns P100,000

EXPECT Lolita Alarcon, a barangay captain in Caloocan City, to be treated like royalty every time she goes to the LandBank of the Philippines branch on Samson Road. Alarcon, of Barangay 66, Zone 6, went to the bank yesterday to cash a check for P126,210. When the bank teller gave her the money, which represented her allowance, as well as that of other barangay officials and volunteers, she left the bank. When Alarcon got home, however, she discovered that the bank teller had given her P226,210. Alarcon promptly returned the money, saying that her parents had raised her to be honest. She only asked for one thing in return: for the bank to exempt her from standing in line the next time she cashes a check. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

MANILA policemen show bomb parts that were detected by their bomb-sniffing dogs during a drill conducted at the police headquarters yesterday. REM ZAMORA

Scene stealers at cops' antiterrorism drill

TWO BELGIAN MALINOIS AND A Dutch Shepherd were the stars of yesterday's antiterrorism drill at the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters on United Nations Avenue.

Chuck, Volta and Tiger of the MPD Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) K-9 unit were led by their handlers to two packages strategically placed in the police grounds.

After sniffing the packages, the dogs sat down, signifying that the black bag and the box contained explosives, according to MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

"From time to time, we subject these dogs to drills to test their capability," Bulaong said in an interview. He added that they thought of conducting a drill after National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol issued a terror alert last week.

"We will also conduct emergency response drills at the headquarters in case of sudden terrorist attacks," Bulaong said.

The police chief reminded the public about the proper procedure in clearing areas of possible bombs. "First, the policemen who first respond to the site should cordon off the area with yellow tape," Bulaong said.

After the K-9 unit determines the presence of explosives as the dogs had demonstrated during the drill, the EOD members should follow safety procedures in detonating the bomb.

Bulaong said the canines should inspect the site one more time before EOD operatives can declare the area safe. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Week starts with bomb scare for Makati employees

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE WORKWEEK GOT OFF TO A JITtery start yesterday for people working in the Corporate Center, a 26-story building at the corner of Valero and Sedeño Streets in Salcedo Village, Makati.

Building officials were forced to order everyone to get out after someone reported receiving a bomb threat.

SPO3 Edwin Quilala, officer-in-charge of the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, said police were deployed to the area at around noon following a call for help from the building's security office.

"Whenever we receive bomb threats, what we do is look for the person who received the call because that's where we begin. But we could not find that person so we decided to begin sanitizing the building," Quilala told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Two bomb-sniffing dogs went through the entire building to search for explosives but found nothing.

Employees were then asked to return to their work stations at around 2 p.m.

Yesterday's incident occurred a week after a bomb went off in front of a scuba shop and training center in Barangay San Antonio, and exactly 20 days after a pillbox was hurled in front of the Yuchengco-owned Great Pacific Life building on Gil Puyat Avenue.

The police said they are closing in on the suspect in the explosion in front of the Aquaventure diving shop. They said they had also identified the owner of the motorcycle, which was seen fleeing from the scene with two men on board, seconds before the blast.

Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, however, withheld the suspect's name as they were still conducting follow-up operations.

Recruit mountain tribes to fight NPA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HERE'S A SUGGESTION TO PRESIdent Arroyo on how to lick the New People's Army in Mindanao: Recall former renegade Col. Alexander Noble from retirement and have him regroup his 2,000-man army of natives.

The 2,000 natives, belonging to non-Muslim tribes, are highly trained in guerrilla warfare. They know the island's terrain better than the military's elite troops and the NPA.

Many of these natives took part in the Mindanao rebellion led by Noble in 1989.

These natives, when completely armed, could deprive the NPAs of their natural sanctuary in the mountains of Mindanao.

The 2,000 natives can multiply five times their original number with new recruits from among the mountain people.

The President might want to set aside part of the P1 billion for Noble's "army."

* * *

Using mountain tribal people in Mindanao against the NPA is not new.

In the 1980s, the Mandaya tribe of the Davao-Cotabato mountain range fought the NPA after its leader was murdered by communist rebels. The communist guerrillas were no match for the mountain people who were armed by the government.

The NPAs learned a lesson from the Mindanao experience. They have since smoked the peace pipe with mountain tribes who leave them alone.

If Noble's army of tribal people are recruited to run after the NPAs in the mountains of Mindanao, the communist rebels will have to go down to the lowlands and into the arms of government troops.

* * *

What kind of administrative hearing against erring teachers do they have at the Department of Education?

Tomas Gayatao, 40, science teacher at he Bagong Baryo Elementary School in Caloocan City, was found guilty by his peers of raping a 10-year-old pupil last year.

The girl was Gayatao's pupil. He forced the girl into the school's toilet and molested her there.

You know what penalty the DepEd's National Capital Region meted out to Gayatao? A six-month suspension!

My gawd, half a year's suspension for raping his 10-year-old pupil!

And you know the reason given by the DepEd-NCR's for giving Gayatao a light penalty? It was his first offense!

Maria santisima! Following that logic, Gayatao would have to rape some more pupils for him to be booted out of the service!

Meanwhile, the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office is taking its own sweet time in conducting a preliminary investigation on the rape case filed by the girl's father against Gayatao.

The case was filed in the middle of last year, but up to now the investigating prosecutor has not yet filed the case in court.

Mr. Prosecutor, what will it take for you to file the case in court?

* * *

Jeepney driver Ricky Anore was beaten up and threatened with a gun by Manila police PO1 Romeo Flores in Tondo, Manila recently.

Flores, a newcomer in the Tondo neighborhood, is a troublemaker when he gets drunk, according to his neighbors and barangay officials.

The reason why he beat up Anore was not known. The cop probably wanted to show his new neighborhood who was the boss.

Not content with beating up and poking his gun at Anore, Flores took him to Station No. 1 in Tondo.

The investigator at the station immediately sided with Flores and booked him for assault and illegal possession of firearm even though barangay officials swore that the charges against the driver were trumped up.

You still want to know why more and more citizens are sympathizing with the NPA?

DID YOU KNOW

DID you know that the city of Muntinlupa used to be part of Rizal and Laguna?

Muntinlupa was a district of Morong, Rizal, in 1901. Two years later, the Philippine Commission placed it under Biñan, Laguna. Muntinlupa residents, however, including their head, Marcelo Fresnedi, protested and petitioned the Governor General to return Muntinlupa to Rizal province. The request was granted in 1905. Muntinlupa became an independent municipality in 1917 and was included in the Metro Manila area in 1975. It was finally proclaimed a city in 1995 by virtue of Republic Act 7926. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(Ref.. IFB No. 2006-01)

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) has made available from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) subsidy fund the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,500,000.00) which is the Approved Budget Cost (ABC) toward the cost of constructing below-named distribution line section. Bids higher than the ABC shall automatically be rejected.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. now invites Sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the line construction which includes Materials and Labor (including ROW Clearing) for

Barangay Sinapulan, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Engineering Manager, Engr. Godofredo F. Sanchez, Jr.

Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting June 21, 2006 by an interested eligible Bidder upon submission of a written application to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Philippine Peso (PhP 10,000.00)

Sealed envelopes containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duly marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., July 13, 2006 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 30, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount equivalent to 2-1/2% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid for at least 150 days, starting from the date of bid opening.

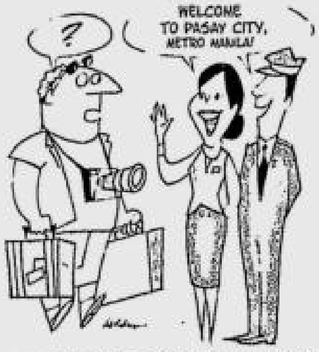
The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI – June 20 & 27, 2006)

New airport greeting welcomes visitors to Pasay

By Jocelyn R. Uy


?
WELCOME TO PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA!

PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT THE Ninoy Aquino International and Manila Domestic airports will now be greeted with "Welcome to Pasay City, Metro Manila" instead of the usual "Welcome to Manila."

The Pasay City council has passed on third and final reading an ordinance that requires flight attendants and other airport employees to use the new greeting as a pitch for visitors to the city or "*balikbayans*."

Any airport employee who violates the law will be fined P500 or imprisoned for not more than 15 days, depending on the court's discretion.

According to the councilors, since the domestic and international airports are within the jurisdiction of Pasay, not Manila, the new greeting was more appropriate.

"It has been observed that passengers who go in and out of the airport [are] greeted with 'Welcome to Manila'... which deprives the city (of the opportunity) to be known and recognized here and around the world," the ordinance sponsored by Councilor Noel Bayona said.

The new greeting, he added, was also one way of boosting trade and tourism in the city.

An average of five million foreign and local tourists pass through the two airports every year.

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

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LIVE AUCTION SALE

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On View: Wednesday, 28 June 2006 from 9am to 5pm and morning of sale date
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)

Sale includes
CUMMINS 488 KW Diesel Generator; Power Cables; TCM FD 20 Diesel Forklift c/w BALE Lifter; YALE 2500 Kg. Gas Forklift; Pallet Trucks; Welders; Drill; Grinder; Gas Cutter; Air Compressor & Receiver Tank; Stainless Steel Tanks; Scrap Motors; TOLEDO 500 Kg Weighing Scale; CENTURY 50 Kg Weighing Scale; Large Qty. Of Wooden Pallets; Security Camera System; Large Qty. Of Printing Inks & Other Supplies; Printing Plates & Chemicals; Varnish; Large Qty. Of Paper & Board Stocks; Racking; Plans Cabinets, etc.

For further information please contact Chris Major at
Tel: 852 2910 / 11 Email: chris.major@henrybutcher.com

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Embattled E. Timor PM quits

DILI—EAST TIMOR'S PRIME MINISTER Mari Alkatiri, widely blamed for triggering last month's bloody unrest, resigned on Monday in a move expected to ease tensions in the impoverished nation.

The announcement sparked jubilation on the streets of the violence-hit capital Dili, where truckloads of protestors cruised the streets waving red, yellow and black East Timorese flags with horns blaring.

The premier had faced demands to quit since late May, when clashes between police and Army factions and mob violence killed 21 people and forced nearly 150,000 to flee their homes.

More than 2,200 foreign peacekeepers were deployed to restore order but political leaders have since wrangled over how to move forward.

ALKATIRI AFP

The pressure was cranked up last week when President Xanana Gusmao, a hero of East Timor's independence movement, ordered Alkatiri to resign to take responsibility for the crisis. He threatened to resign if Alkatiri would not.

Alkatiri faced the press on Monday, telling reporters: "I declare I am ready to resign my position as prime minister of the government ... so as to avoid the resignation of His Excellency the President of the Republic."

"Assuming my own share of responsibility for the crisis affecting our country, I am determined not to contribute to any deepening of the crisis," he said, adding that he would stay on as a member of parliament.

"I am ready to dialogue with ... the president in order to contribute if necessary to the formation of an interim government," he said.

Alkatiri did not take questions and it was not immediately clear whether any formal steps needed to be taken to finalize his departure.

On the streets, crowds cheered and sang.

"He had no interest in the people's suffering," said 25-year-old Cabut, who carried a shackled monkey bearing the sign "Alkatiri."

"Like the monkey, he didn't have a mind," Cabut quipped.

Rosario Bragaza, 24, a passenger in one of the trucks, was equally pleased.

"We're so happy that he has stepped down. He gave out weapons to the people to kill others and he divided the country into two halves," he said, referring to allegations that Alkatiri assented to having a hit squad formed to kill his opponents.

An Australian documentary purporting to show evidence of Alkatiri's involvement triggered Gusmao's initial demand that the premier step down.

Alkatiri has denied the accusations and East Timor's prosecutor-general has said he has no evidence of his involvement. The former interior minister has been charged over distributing the arms.

EAST Timor demonstrators, painted white to represent the ghosts of people killed during the recent unrest, celebrate after Alkatiri's resign announcement. AP

The prime minister is also accused of triggering last month's unrest by dismissing some 600 deserting soldiers in March.

The soldiers—nearly half the fledgling nation's armed forces—had complained of discrimination against those from the west of the country.

Alkatiri initially rebuffed Gusmao's demands. His Fretilin party on Sunday refused to withdraw support for him, sparking the resignation of three ministers, including foreign and defense minister Jose Ramos-Horta. *AFP*

Study: Mad cow epidemic may be underestimated

LONDON—PEOPLE COULD BE infected with the human form of mad cow disease for more than 50 years without developing the illness, which means the size of a potential epidemic may be underestimated, UK scientists said on Friday.

So far about 160 people have been diagnosed with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). Cases of the fatal disease have also been reported in France, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan and the United States.

Estimates have varied widely of how many people are likely to develop the brain illness caused by eating meat products contaminated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

It has been difficult to predict due to the long incubation period, which scientists had thought could be up to 20 years.

But Professor John Collinge and researchers at University College, London believe it could be longer and that an eventual epidemic could be bigger.

"Recent estimates of the size of the vCJD epidemic ... could be substantial underestimations," he said in a report in The Lancet medical journal.

The scientists' findings are based on a study of another human disease called kuru, which like vCJD is caused by a mutated prion brain protein.

Kuru reached epidemic proportions in some parts of Papua New Guinea where cannibalism had been practiced up to the 1950s in a ritual where natives ate dead relatives as a mark of respect.

Collinge and his team calculated the minimum incubation period for kuru based on when cannibalism was stopped and the year of birth of the last recorded patient.

According to their calculations, the minimum incubation time ranged from 34-41 years but in men rose to more than 50 years.

They suspect it could be longer for vCJD because the infection was transmitted between species, from cows to humans, which usually takes longer than within the same species. *Reuters*

Suicide attack kills top S. Lanka general

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—A SUICIDE bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up next to a car carrying a Sri Lanka's third-highest ranking military officer Monday, killing the general and the three other people, officials said. Five others were wounded.

Authorities quickly blamed the Tamil Tiger rebels for the blast just outside Colombo, with chief government spokesperson Keheliya Rambukwella saying: "This attack is a serious blow to the ceasefire."

The blast "carries the hallmark of the LTTE," Rambukwella said, using the initials of the insurgents' formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have long used suicide bombers in major attacks.

There was no comment from the rebels, but a prorebel website reported the attack without comment.

Four months of violence have brought Sri Lanka dangerously close to the brink of resuming full-scale civil war, and Monday's blast—a rare attack so close to the capital—came just over two months after the Tigers' tried to kill Sri Lanka's top military commander in a suicide bombing in Colombo.

The car carrying Maj. Gen. Parami Kulatunga was taking the general to work in Colombo when it was hit by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle, military spokesperson Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said. The attack took place close to Kulatunga's home in Pannipitiya, 15 kilometers (nine miles) southeast of Colombo's city center.

Kulatunga was a hardened combat veteran who had led numerous operations against the rebels in Sri Lanka's northeast, the scene of most of the fighting during nearly two decades of full-scale war. *AP*

US-style bill of rights eyed for UK

LONDON—BRITAIN SHOULD REplace the Human Rights Act with its first modern US-style bill of rights to help fight crime and terrorism, opposition Conservative Party leader David Cameron said on Monday.

The rights act must go, he believes, because it has created a "culture of rights without responsibilities."

"It has hampered the fight against crime, it has caused some extra difficulties in the vital fight against terrorism," he told BBC radio. "It hasn't actually been particularly good at protecting our rights."

The proposals would strike a "common sense balance" between civil liberties and protecting public safety."

Britain's human rights laws incorporated the European Convention of Human Rights into British law in 2000. Critics say it has tipped the balance in favor of criminals.

Cameron, who has overtaken Prime Minister Tony Blair in polls after losing the last election in May 2005, admitted it would be difficult to draw up a bill of rights.

He will set up a panel of lawyers and constitutional experts to look at the issue.

Under his proposals, Britain would remain a member of the European Convention on Human Rights and British citizens could still pursue cases at the European Court of Human Rights.

Attorney General Lord Goldsmith, the government's top legal adviser, said Cameron's ideas were misconceived and dangerous.

"(It) would lead to more, not less, confusion about the balance between protecting the public and individual liberties," he was quoted as saying in the Daily Mail. *Reuters*

WILD AND FEROCIOUS

Horses fight during the "Rapa Das Bestas" event in Cedeira, northwestern Spain, June 25. Throughout the summer, hundreds of wild horses are rounded up, trimmed and groomed in different villages in Galicia. REUTERS

US to deploy Patriot missiles in Japan

TOKYO—JAPAN AND THE UNITED States have agreed to deploy advanced Patriot interceptor missiles on US bases in Japan for the first time, officials said Monday, amid concerns North Korea may test-fire a long-range ballistic missile.

The two sides reached the accord earlier this month and intend to install the weapons as early as possible, a defense agency spokesperson said on condition of anonymity, citing agency rules.

The plan will put Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles—designed to intercept ballistic missiles, cruise missiles or enemy aircraft—on US bases in Japan for the first time.

The defense agency spokesperson said sites and timing for the deployment have not yet been decided.

But a local newspaper reported that the US military would deploy three or four of the surface-to-air missile batteries on the southern island of Okinawa by the end of the year and send an additional 500 to 600 US troops there. Up to 16 missiles can fit in a single PAC-3 battery, according to the system's manufacturer, Lockheed Martin Corp.

The plan was proposed by US officials during a June 17 meeting in Hawaii, Japan's largest newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported, quoting unidentified government officials.

The two countries signed an agreement in 2005 allowing Japan to produce PAC-3 missiles for deployment during fiscal 2006 at Japanese bases, but the plan to deploy them on US bases is apparently separate. *AP*

Thousands rally against Taiwan's Chen

TAIPEI—THOUSANDS OF SLOGAN-chanting protesters rallied Sunday to push for the resignation of Taiwan's embattled President Chen Shui-bian before a key vote on his political fate this week.

Defying the rain and summer heat, demonstrators took to the streets for a third straight weekend, waving banners calling for Chen to step down over a string of corruption scandals that have tarnished his government's image.

Organizers estimated 15,000 people were on hand for the spirited rally, which included a classical Chinese drama in which a judge sentenced to death the son-in-law of an emperor.

"When the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was founded nearly 20 years ago, it was clean, but now it is corrupt," said Ma Ying-jeou, head of the leading opposition Kuomintang (KMT, or Nationalist) party.

"The people, who gave power to the president, are now entitled to strip him of the power after his family and close friends were found to have taken bribes. They have the right to take back the power, don't they?" Ma said.

"Yes!" the crowd chorused, sounding horns, waving banners and shouting "Ah-Bian step down! Clean politics save Taiwan!" *AFP*

Be a man, quit party, Mahathir urged

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—A government minister on Monday urged former leader Mahathir Mohamad to be a man and quit the ruling party if he can't stop criticizing his successor's administration.

"We cannot take this lying down. Out of respect for him (Mahathir) we have kept quiet and not responded. He saw it as our weakness. I don't think we can take it lying down," Nazri Aziz, the minister in charge of law, told The Associated Press.

Nazri's retaliation heightened the festering political row between Mahathir and his handpicked successor, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Mahathir's recent attacks on Abdullah have raised the specter of a divided ruling party, which has formed the bedrock of Malaysia's stability since independence in 1957.

Nazri stressed he was speaking in his personal capacity, and did not consult Abdullah or the ruling United Malays National Organization party before going public with his anti-Mahathir comments.

Nazri's comments to the AP, which expanded on a news conference he gave earlier Monday, reflected the growing frustration among many Umno members with Mahathir, who has a larger-than-life presence in the country and is venerated by most Malaysians.

But in the last few weeks, Mahathir has emerged as an unofficial one-man opposition, accusing Abdullah of stabbing him in the back and mismanaging the administration.

"If he continues to remain in the party, he would be like the opposition. It's better for him to be a jantan (man) and leave the party," said Nazri. "It will be very good for the party. He might as well go out of the party and joins an opposition. Much better for us."

Mahathir, 80, appears to have been angered by several decisions taken by Abdullah's administration that reversed policies made during his 22-year rule, including the scrapping of several large infrastructure projects.

Chief among them was Abdullah abandoning a plan to build a new bridge to Singapore, a project close to Mahathir's heart.

In his latest salvo, Mahathir suggested on Saturday that Abdullah's advisers including his young son-in-law Khairy Jamaluddin were running the country.

Nazri said Mahathir was breaking his promise not to interfere with the government after retirement.

"I think he is going back on all his words and promises," said Nazri. "He chose to hit us in the open. He is really not interested in the problem (afflicting the country). He is interested in attacking the P.M. especially."

Nazri said the Umno has no intention of sacking Mahathir from the party, but it would be best if the former leader left voluntarily. *AP*

MAHATHIR AP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

ONE of four Russian diplomats with his masked captors in this website image June 25. REUTERS

4 Russian envoys 'executed'

Al-Qaida group in Iraq shown killing 2 hostages in video

PARIS—AN INSURGENT COALITION LED BY AL-QAIDA said Sunday it had killed four Russian diplomats held hostage in Iraq and released a gruesome Internet video purportedly showing two of the men being executed.

"We present the implementation of Allah's rule against the Russian diplomats to comfort the believers," said the statement posted by the Mujahedeen Shura (consultative) Council in Iraq.

"It is also in revenge for our brothers and sisters and what they suffer of torture, killing and displacement by the infidel Russian government," it added.

The videotape linked to the statement showed the four hostages speaking in separate messages dated June 13, before two of them were shown being killed and another after his murder.

The first was held on his knees in front of two masked men dressed in black, one of whom produces a knife and beheads the captive. Another body was then shown lying in a pool of blood with its severed head placed on its back.

A third hostage was shown kneeling handcuffed and blind-folded outdoors before being shot in the head with a pistol. The identity of the murdered hostages was not immediately clear nor was there any sign of the fourth captive.

The insurgent alliance said Wednesday that its Islamic court had ruled the four diplomats should be executed after Moscow failed to heed a 48-hour ultimatum to pull out of Chechnya and free Muslim prisoners from Russian jails.

The Russian foreign ministry said it was trying to confirm the killing of its three diplomats.

"The ministry of foreign affairs is checking the veracity of the information using every means possible," ministry spokesperson Mikhail Kaminine was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

The four are Fyodor Zaytsev, Rinat Aglyulin, Anatoly Smirnov and Oleg Fedosseyev.

They were abducted on June 3 when gunmen attacked their vehicle in the upmarket west Baghdad neighborhood of Mansur. A fifth diplomat, Vitaly Titov, was killed during the kidnapping.

The same group said in an Internet message Tuesday that it had executed two US soldiers whose bodies were found south of Baghdad with their throats slit. *AFP*

Girls bring glory to Indian village in a nation of boys

By Parul Gupta

INDIAN mother Sangeeta Sidhu and her daughter Nandini in the village of Jalahmajra in Punjab June 13. In northern Punjab state a large number of girls are either killed before birth, or are considered a curse by their parents. India may have lost 10 million unborn girls in the past 20 years due to the practice. AFP

JALAHMAJRA, INDIA—BARELY eight months old, Nandini sleeps in her mother's arms, unaware how lucky she is to have been born.

For in the northern Punjab state where her village is located, a large number of girls are either killed before birth, or are considered a curse by their parents whose traditional preference for sons remains unshakeable.

With only 798 girls for every thousand boys under the age of six, Punjab has the lowest sex ratio in the country, where the figure is 927, still well below the worldwide average of 1,050 female babies.

Across India there is such a shortage of women that some men have resorted to buying brides from other states.

A study by British medical journal Lancet said this year that India may have lost 10 million unborn girls in the past 20 years, but Indian experts say the figure is not more than five million.

But in Jalahmajra, where Nandini was born, there is an average of 1,020 girls per 1,000 boys, a national aberration that has put the village at the forefront of a campaign to stem the crisis.

The distinction also earned the village an award of 300,000 rupees ($6,542) by the state government last week, which announced the reward last year to any Punjab village which reports more girls than boys among its population.

Jalahmajra residents say the turnaround is the result partly of a sustained but strict campaign by the region's top administrative official, Krishan Kumar, who heads Nawanshahr district, in which the village is located.

"Earlier when a girl was born, people in the streets would ask the mother: 'Didn't you undergo a test to know the gender?'. That has stopped," says headteacher Devender Singh, referring to the practice of aborting a baby if it turns out to be a girl.

Under Indian law, tests to find out the gender of an unborn baby are illegal if not done for medical reasons, but the practice continues in what activists say is a flourishing multimillion dollar business.

"Now there is a girl in every house in our village," says Nandini's beaming 24-year-old mother Sangeeta Sidhu, who says her family is happy that she and her mason husband Gurdeep now have a "complete" pair of a son and a daughter.

The couple say they want to educate Nandini, and are not worried about arranging a huge sum of dowry for her marriage—one of the main reasons why parents shun unborn girls.

Village head Hari Singh said he would use the reward money to build a wedding guesthouse, so that residents could save expenses for their daughters' marriages, almost always borne by the bride's family and often on huge loans.

Another 70 of Nawanshahr district's 472 villages are close to achieving the national average of a sex ratio of 927, says district chief Kumar, who launched the campaign against abortions last year.

Under the drive, Kumar mobilized all voluntary bodies in the state and hundreds of school children in street plays to create awareness in the remotest villages of the district.

Local workers were asked to inform him if any woman was pregnant, so that his officials could give her a cautionary call to convey that the authorities were keeping a watch. *AFP*

Saddam says US will seek his help in calming Iraq

AMMAN, JORDAN—SADDAM Hussein believes the United States will have to seek his help to quell the bloody insurgency in Iraq and open the way for US forces to withdraw, his chief lawyer said.

Khalil al-Dulaimi argued in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday that the former leader is the key to returning stability to Iraq.

"He's their last resort. They're going to knock at his door eventually," the lawyer said. Saddam is "the only person who can stop the resistance against the US troops."

There is no indication US officials have considered seeking his help. While Saddam's once dominant fellow Sunni Arabs are the backbone of the insurgency, the Shiite Muslim majority and Kurds repressed by his regime would be enflamed by his presence.

The comments from Al-Dulaimi, the head of Saddam's defense team, portrayed a deposed leader who seems to hold out hope he can bargain his way out of trials that threaten him with the death penalty.

Al-Dulaimi said Saddam brought up the topic during a meeting Tuesday, and indicated he would be willing to help the United States—"for the sake of saving both peoples—the Iraqis and Americans."

He quoted Saddam as saying:

"These puppets in the Iraqi government that the Americans brought to power are helpless. They can't protect themselves or the Iraqi people. The Americans will certainly come to me, to Saddam Hussein's legitimate leadership and to the Iraqi Baath Party, to rescue them from their huge quandary." *AP*

Fast-growing China needs foreign pilots

BEIJING—CHINA'S AIRLINES are opening up their cockpits to foreigners in a bid to solve a serious pilot shortage, state media reported on Monday.

China's booming commercial aviation industry is taking off faster than the country can train pilots, threatening future growth and hard-won advances in air safety.

The number of passenger planes in service in China was expected to double to 1,600 in the next five years, the China Daily newspaper quoted an aviation official as saying.

Every 100 new planes would require 1,000 extra pilots, China's industry regulator said in February, while official media estimate that Chinese flying schools can only graduate 600 pilots a year.

One pioneering foreigner, Philippe Burtonboy, a pilot with United Eagle Airlines Co., one of the country's four private airlines, had become famous, the paper said.

"The 50-year-old Belgian is a celebrity in Chengdu, even though he has been here for just four months, as he is the first foreign captain to pilot a plane in southwest China," the paper said.

Last month, China Eastern Airlines announced 16 Indians had completed professional training as air stewardesses, the first group of Indian cabin staff ever hired by a Chinese airline. *Reuters*

World antinarcotics effort working, UN report says

VIENNA—WORLDWIDE EFFORTS to fight the use of illegal drugs are working but this positive result could easily be reversed, a United Nations drug report said on Monday.

"Drug control is working and the world drug problem is being contained," Antonio Maria Costa, head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said upon publication of the 2006 World Drug Report by his agency in Vienna.

"Worldwide efforts to reduce the threat posed by illicit drugs have effectively reversed a quarter-century-long rise in drug abuse that, if left unchecked, could have become a global pandemic," Costa said in a statement released along with the report.

The UNODC said there had been major successes in 2005 in the so-called Golden Triangle of southeast Asia.

In this region where Burma, Thailand and Laos meet, Burma has reduced opium poppy cultivation—which can be used to produce heroin, morphine and opium—by 26 percent while Laos cut it by as much as 72 percent and was "on the verge of becoming opium poppy free."

In central Asia, in Afghanistan, which is the world's main producer of opium, poppy cultivation was down for the first time since 2001 but it could go up again this year, the UNODC report warned.

"Afghanistan's drug situation remains vulnerable to reversal because of mass poverty, lack of security and the fact that the authorities have inadequate control over its territory," Costa said, adding that "this could happen as early as 2006."

Cannabis, or marijuana, the world's most widely used drug, has seen a steady increase in consumption over the past decade and this rise in use is continuing, the report said.

Of the 200 million people or five percent of the world's population aged 15-64 who use drugs at least once a year, 162 million use cannabis, 2004 figures show. *AFP*

NICOLE Kidman and Keith Urban during their candlelit wedding ceremony at Cardinal Cerretti Memorial Chapel in Manly, Sydney, June 25. REUTERS

Nicole Kidman marries music star Keith Urban

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—OSCAR-WINNING actress Nicole Kidman began her new life as the wife of country music crooner Keith Urban on Monday, after a romantic twilight ceremony with relatives, close friends and a smattering of Hollywood stars.

The newlyweds were expected to jet off to Fiji for their honeymoon on an exclusive island resort, local media said.

Kidman and Urban exchanged vows Sunday evening by the light of around 1,000 candles at a small chapel overlooking Sydney's iconic Manly beach.

The beaming bride wore a flowing white Balenciaga gown and pearl drop earrings. Her cream Rolls-Royce limousine drove from her waterfront mansion across the iconic Sydney Harbor Bridge, through streets lined with cheering fans.

Kidman, accompanied by her father, Antony, smiled and waved to well-wishers outside the Gothic-style St. Patrick's College building, which was dramatically floodlit for the Sunday evening ceremony.

Urban, a Grammy-winning country music star, wore a black suit with a white rose in his lapel matching a bouquet clutched by Kidman.

The ceremony was private, amid intense public interest and speculation about the details. The pastor said the Oscar-winning actress and Nashville, Tennessee-based singer would have a traditional Roman Catholic service.

Kidman and Urban wiped away tears as they read their vows, The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health," Kidman reportedly told the groom. "I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."

It was Urban's first marriage. Kidman and Tom Cruise divorced in 2001 after 10 years of marriage. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

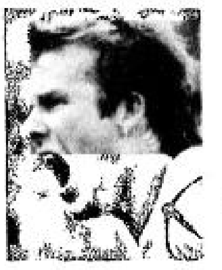
Danny Seigle rips Patrimonio record /A22

SPORTS

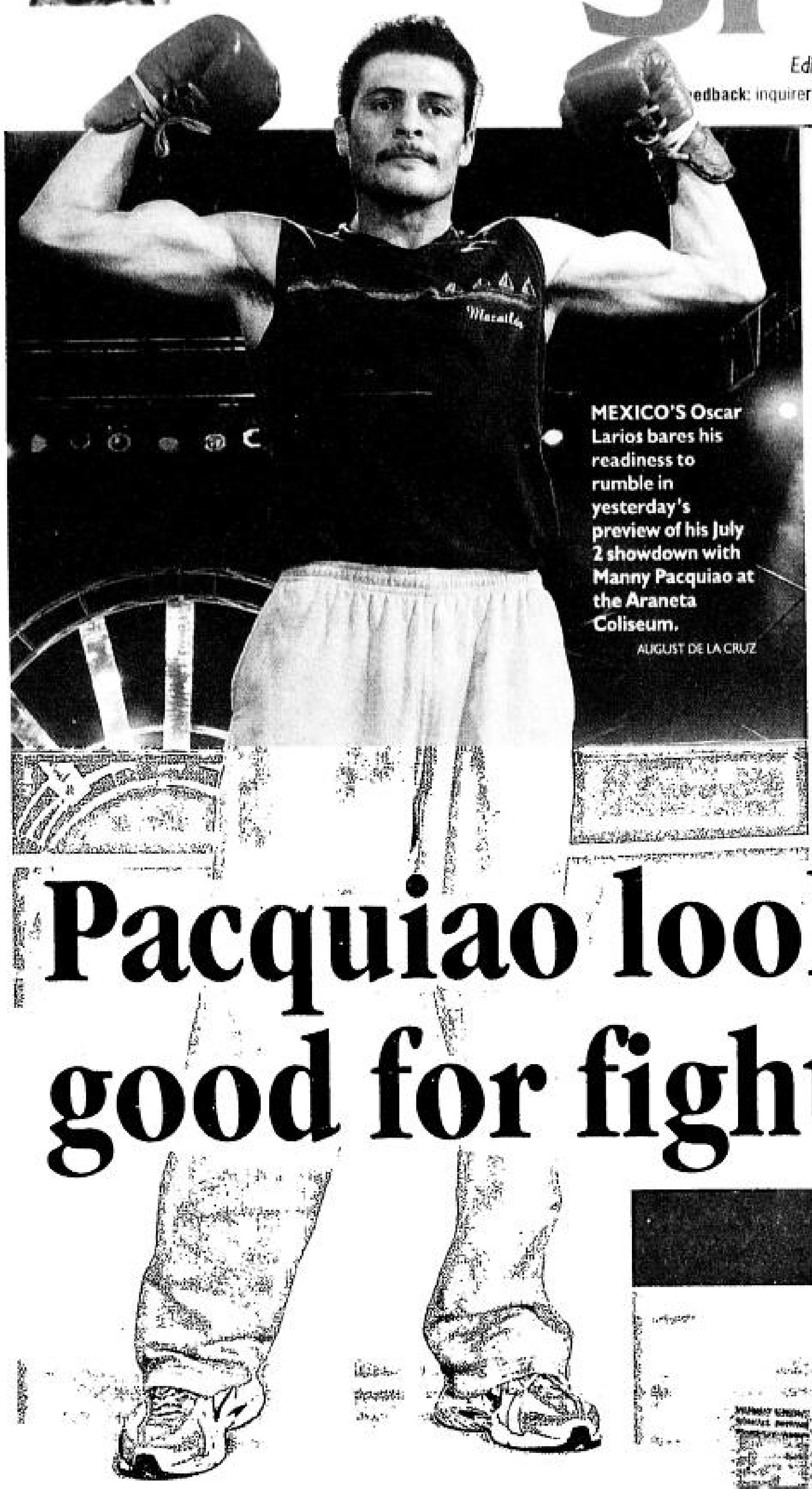
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Beckham hits back at critics with free kick /A24



MEXICO'S Oscar Larios bares his readiness to rumble in yesterday's preview of his July 2 showdown with Manny Pacquiao at the Araneta Coliseum.
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Match preview shows little of the Mexican fighter's bruited ring prowess

PACQUIAO works the mitts with American trainer Freddie Roach, who boasts Larios may not last six rounds.
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Pacquiao looking good for fight night

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY DIDN'T SHOW UP TOGETHER ATOP the neon-bathed ring.

Nevertheless, the two combatants provided a glimpse of what fight fans can expect in Sunday's boxing extravaganza at the Araneta Coliseum.

Of course, Manny Pacquiao worked the crowd far better, even treating them with a ditty from his own CD after flexing his toned muscles and pummeling Freddie Roach's mitts with his usual flair.

The speed was there. The form evident. His swagger in full display.

The country's pride first squared off with Russian punching bag Rustam Nugaev, firming up his straights, tuning up his hooks and perfecting his uppercuts—weapons at his disposal come fight night.

"We are ready for 12 rounds, but I still think the fight is not going past six rounds," said Roach, reiterating his earlier prediction that Mexican Oscar Larios won't last the first half of the megabuck fight.

Early today, Pacquiao is expected to jog along the Manila Baywalk to avoid the moonson rains that come in the afternoon. By that time, he will be training some more at the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines gym inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Larios was the curtain-raiser in the noontime preview, which reportedly cost at least P500 for a ringside view.

But the Mexican wasn't generous showing his talent. He shadowboxed under the watchful eyes of agent Rafael Mendoza. He hit the mitts held by trainers Jose and Edison Reynoso. But he left in a huff even before the three-hour aperitif was over.

Larios, who arrived last Sunday, was reportedly in a hurry to train in private as he is booked at the Elorde Gym on Julia Vargas Avenue in Ortigas Center. He was billeted at the nearby Discovery Suites.

Undercard boxers, ex-world super-flyweight king Gerry Peñalosa, super-featherweight Jimrex Jaca and lightweight Dennis Laurente—who will fight Nugaev—were also there to display their wares.

Cebu-based Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista has been hospitalized and was declared unfit to fight Mexican Alejandro Montiel in another bout. *(See story on A22)*

Bautista will be replaced by stablemate Michael Domingo, according to his promoter Sammy Gelloani.

Meanwhile, Big Dome officials yesterday said that Filipino reporters will have to cover the fight from the Upper-Box A, which is several meters away from the usual press box.

Organizers said they have allotted only 10 seats for photographers from wire services and leading dailies.

Ringside seats, reserved for accredited media even in the MGM Grand and Thomas and Mack Arena, are to be sold for P50,000.

Local and foreign newsmen who covered the Thrilla in Manila featuring Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in 1975 were given ringside seats at the same venue.

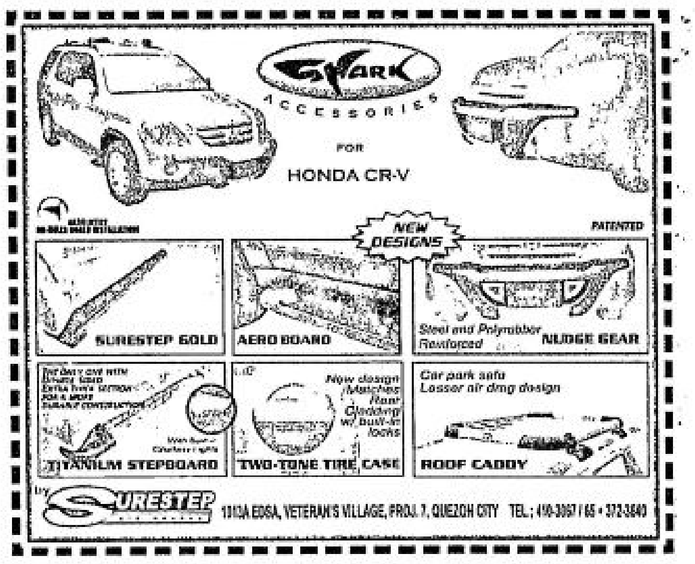
Tenorio tipped to be top rookie pick in PBA draft

LOOKS LIKE L.A. TENORIO IS fast becoming the hottest prospect in the Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft on Aug. 20.

The top amateur point guard has been receiving feelers from several PBA teams, including expansion squad Welcoat Paints.

"Some teams have been calling, but I'm not yet sure which team will pick me," said the former Atenean who led Harbour Centre to its first Philippine Basketball League title recently.

"With what he showed in the PBL finals, a lot of teams would want him," Welcoat team owners Raymund Yu and Terry Que said.



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Virus kayoes Boom Boom; Montiel fight off

BAUTISTA: High fever, coughs

CEBU CITY—THE FIGHT BETWEEN young Filipino sensation Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Mexican Alejandro Felix Montiel is off.

This came about after the undefeated Bautista (20-0 with 15 KOs) was rushed to a local hospital here Sunday night and was deemed "very weak" to square off with Montiel in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios Mano-A-Mano on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 20-year-old Bautista, the reigning WBO Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion, was rushed to the Cebu Doctor's Hospital here Sunday evening, complaining of high fever and heavy coughing.

Actually, Bautista had been feeling under the weather since last Tuesday during his training at the ALA Boxing Gym. He had to forego his sparring session on that day and instead opted for a light workout.

Bautista apparently had a relapse and was admitted to the hospital to take the necessary medication and undergo a series of tests.

A big "No Visitors Allowed" sign hung outside Bautista's hospital room 252, after several fans stormed his room earlier just to have their photos taken with their idol.

Sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer, Bautista's manager, indicated yesterday that his ward's fever had subsided and the coughing mellowed due to heavy antibiotics.

However, Bautista remains very weak and will be unable to resume training soon, necessitating the cancelation of his fight against Montiel.

Erick Gomez of Golden Boy Promotions, who has a three-fight contract with Bautista, is arriving in Manila today and is expected to make the formal announcement of the fight's cancelation.

Meanwhile, Jimrex Jaca, another Cebu-based fighter seeing action in the undercard, will now face Hector Javier Marquez after original opponent Adrian Valdez suffered a broken hand while training.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, who is arranging the undercard fights, confirmed yesterday that Marquez will now be Jaca's new opponent. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

NCAA JUNIOR CAGING

Staglets upend Altalettes

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE WORKED behind the remnants of its champion team last year to repulse University of Perpetual Help System Dalta, 86-73, at the start yesterday of the NCAA juniors basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Forward Ryan Buenafe came off the bench to score 17 points, while rookie center Arvie Bringas posted a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds to lead the defending champion Staglets.

"We have 10 new players, but the good thing is that those who came in are tall players, so we have a solid front-line," said San Sebastian coach Raymond Valenzona, who lost Finals Most Valuable Player Eric Salamat, Paul Lee and Raffy Reyes to graduation.

"We played good defense and we have to continue doing that to be successful."

In the tournament opener, the Jose Rizal U Light Bombers ended a 25-year long losing skid against the San Beda Red Cubs with a stunning 75-72 win.

Carlo Lituania shot 13 of his 23 points in pivotal third quarter to shock last year's runner-up squad.

"This is unexpected," said JRU coach Boy de Vera. "If we win it's good, if not it's just normal for us. This is rare for us because San Beda is a strong team."

JRU opened a solid second-half performance by outscoring San Beda, 35-13, and turning a 28-34 halftime deficit into a 63-47 lead.

The Red Cubs rallied to within 69-70 with 1:05 minutes left, but a jumper by Raycon Kabigting and a triple by Stefan Santos gave the Light Bombers a six-point cushion, 75-69.

Ralph Cua nailed a triple to trim the lead to 72-75.

Although the Cubs forced an inbound violation, Leeward Lobaton's potential game-tying triple rimmed out at the buzzer.

In volleyball action, Letran College scored a twin kill against Perpetual Help with a 25-19, 25-14, 25-27, 25-23 win in the men's division.

The Letran belles also easily disposed of the Lady Altas in straight sets, 25-11, 25-17, 26-14, in the women's division. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

JRU 75—Lituania 23, Gabriel 15, Kabigting 15, Santos 10, Cipriano 6, Bejado 4, Santos 2, Ungco 0, Sta. Cruz 0, Reyes 0, Escarla 0.

SBC 72—Marcelo 18, Cua 12, Yulo 7, Padilla 7, Panaligan 6, Ranises 5, Revilla 4, Lobaton 4, Dimaano 3, Cruz 2, Babilonia 2, Alabastro 2.

Quarters: 4-16; 28-34; 63-47; 75-72

Second Game (Jrs)

SSC 86— Buenafe 17, Bringas, Ar. 11, Zulueta 9, Sikat 8, Penaflor 8, Soledad 7, del Rio 6, Nasayao 5, Empleo 5, Tagoc 3, Carlos 3, Bringas, An. 2, Mamaril 2, Juan 0, Delgado 0.

PERPETUAL 73—Mojado 13, Orbe 13, Amores 12, Chacon 9, Dizon 7, Biscocho 7, Pagkalinawan 6, Pasilong 5, Villamor 1, Labapis 0, Papa 0, Mancia 0.

Quarters: 18-7; 39-23; 65-44; 86-73.

MAGIC SING XTREME INTERNATIONAL EDITION
PBA

SUNDAY WALKOUT: The chairs are empty and Red Bull supporters are up in arms over a referee's call after the Bulls walk out two minutes before the end of the second period during the Photokina franchise's game with the San Miguel Beer at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday. The Bulls returned to continue play after receiving instructions from team owners. The Beermen won, 106-82, to knot the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series at 2-2. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PLAYER OF WEEK

Dynamite Danny rips Patrimonio record

IMPRESSIVE: Seigle

SEEMINGLY UNSTOPPABLE, San Miguel Beer forward Danny Seigle continues to post impressive numbers in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup.

Just last Sunday, the 6-foot-6 Fil-Am pumped in 24 points, his 16th consecutive 20-point game in the conference to overtake Alvin Patrimonio's 15 straight 20-plus output during the 1992 season.

On top of his new career milestone, Seigle collected 10 rebounds and five assists to lead the Beermen to a 106-82 victory over Red Bull, tying their best-of-seven semifinals series at 2-2.

For San Miguel coach Jong Uichico, such performances just enhanced Seigle's status as one of the league's top all-around players.

"Danny S usually attracts the defense, and for him to display unselfishness is such a blessing to our team," said Uichico. "Also, he has made it a mission to help out in the boards and that, I think, makes him a complete player indeed."

With norms of 27.3 points, 11 rebounds and four assists per game, the PBA Press Corps named Seigle the Gran Matador Brandy-Player of the Week for the period of June 19 to 25.

The latest citation made Seigle the only player to nail the honor thrice in the conference. He was also best player for the periods April 3-9 (with Coca-Cola's William Antonio) and April 17-23.

Villanueva, Fronda rule Shell chess

VIC NEIL VILLANUEVA RACKED UP FOUR WINS in a row to complete a sweep of the junior division, while Jude Fronda nipped two others in the tiebreak to rule the kiddies side of the 2006 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships-National Capital Region leg at SM City Manila on Sunday.

Villanueva, of University of Sto. Tomas, defeated Jayveelyn Fronda in the fourth round, then bested Luke Farre, Teorwin Talapian and Junar Valeros to emerge as the lone perfect scorer after seven rounds in the 20-and-under category.

The fourth-ranked Villanueva won P5,000 as he towed two others into the final round in October at SM North Edsa.

Valeros secured runner-up honors after nipping Farre in the tiebreak.

Farre beat Paulo Florendo in the last round to finish third and gain the last berth in the finals.

Fronda, meanwhile, drew with Haridas Pascua in the final round, then nipped Pascua and Loren Laceste in the tiebreak to capture the kiddies plum with 6.5 points.

The Letran bet, who took home P4,000, also advanced to the finals along with Pascua and Laceste, who prevailed over Nigel Gialan in the final round to claim third place.

John Arnaldo, business and corporate communications manager of Pilipinas Shell, and Ed Madrid, vice president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, awarded the trophies to the winners.

Other awardees were University of the East's Christy Bernales, overall top female player; and 4-year-old Carlos Adamos of Baby's Breath Day Care, the youngest participant in the 504-player field.

Meralco, Fortune shuttlers sweep rivals in corporate tilt

MERALCO AND FORTUNE TOBACCO PULLED off emphatic victories over their rivals to reach the round of 16 in the corporate division of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at PowerSmash in Makati City late Sunday.

Bannered by Reynaldo Selga, Jun Ildefonso, Dang Sarabia and Dianah Barbo, Meralco swept Kawasaki, 3-0, then posted the same result over Allied Bank to join early qualifiers Accenture, AB Leisure, Toyota Motors and defending champion Philippine Star in the last 16 slated on Saturday.

Not to be outdone, Fortune Tobacco leaned on Ronnie Barrameda, Jose Estoesta, Mae Tan and Grace Ngo to whitewash Allied Bank and Kawasaki via similar 3-0 routs in Group 8 action.

Also gaining ground in the tournament, which offers P50,000 to the champion, are HSBC and Ayala Land in Group 5, Robinson's Land in Group 6 and Prudential Life in Group 7.

A series of elimination matches will still be played on Saturday, also at PowerSmash, although Meralco and the nine other teams have assured themselves of spots in the last 16 with their impressive records.

The top two squads in each group will advance to the round of 16. They will then be ranked according to the number of team ties won to determine the quarterfinal pairings on July 2 when the event shifts to the Glorietta Activity Center.

Meanwhile, the eliminations in the elite and juniors divisions were still being played at presstime. Other events on tap are veterans-elite, veterans-novice, celebrity, alumni and the centerpiece elite masters.

NOKIA INTERVILLAGE

AA golfers eye finals berth

AYALA ALABANG HOPES TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM of its first-round romp at The Riviera as it guns for a berth in the grand finals of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament in the second round of the Nokia 1 elims at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club today.

The Ayala Alabang golfers topped the first round of the 36-hole eliminations in the Nokia 1 division by firing 301 points at Riviera's Couples course. That gave them a six-point lead over BF Homes heading into the final 18 holes of the qualifiers among nine teams from different golfing villages in the metropolis.

BF Homes shot 295 for second while Pilar Village Golf and Alabang 400 came through with 283 and 282 points, respectively, for third and fourth places, respectively, under the Stableford scoring system.

But with Magallanes lurking just a point behind with 281 and Levitown-Don Bosco another point adrift at 280, a wild chase for the top four berths in the grand finals looms in the event backed by Pan West, GNC, 357 Boracay, Immuvit multivitamins, Agua Vida, Aktivade, Forth & Tay, BJ Marthel, Pisanti and Citibank.

The three other teams—Casa Verde, defending champion Don Enrique Heights and Marcelo Green—are also in the hunt with 278, 274 and 269 points, in that order.

Ayala Alabang pins its hopes again on Dante Buerano, Reynaldo Valdez, Mark Ledesma, Mar Rodelas, Jesus Fargas and Alex Escalona, while Ian Arceo and Eric Jaudines are fancied to lead BF Homes' bid in the 12-to-play, 8-to-count format event organized by Videocom.

CELESTINO Lee of Don Enrique Heights sinks his putt during the eliminations at the Riviera's Couples.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Al S. Mendoza's column, Spectator, will be back on July 19.

SPORTSWATCH

Title-seeking Suico flies to Vegas July 6

WORLD-RANKED RANDY SUICO ARRIVED YESTERDAY FROM JAPAN confident that he has the goods to put the WBA lightweight crown away from champion Juan Diaz on July 15 in Las Vegas. The dynamite-fisted Suico trained for two weeks in Tokyo, originally for his July 2 fight underneath the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios duel at the Araneta Coliseum. The WBA, however, tapped him as a replacement for the injured Mongolian Lakva Sim in the title challenge against Diaz (29-0, 14 KOs). "The world championship is a dream-come-true for me, and I will try my best to deliver," said Suico (24-2, 21 KOs) in an interview. The Suico-Diaz fight will serve as a chief support to the Shane Mosley-Fernando Vargas rematch to be held at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

SBP-Passerelle caging lures 36 teams

THIRTY-SIX TEAMS WILL SEE ACTION IN THE 21ST SEASON OF THE MILO BEST Center's SBP-Passerelle basketball tournament which unwraps at 7:30 a.m. on July 9 at the Xavier School gym in Greenhills, San Juan. Defending champion Ateneo leads the 18 participants in the SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) while last year's winner La Salle Green Hills heads the 18-team cast in the Passerelle group. Tournament commissioner Rolando Omampo is urging all participants to meet the deadline for submission of entries set July 4. Provincial tournaments in San Fernando (Pampanga), Baguio City, Pangasinan, Lucena City, Bacolod City, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga, Davao, General Santos and Cagayan will start after the NCR opening.

Roligon 4-cocker gets going

SEVENTY MATCHES ARE ON THE ROSTER IN A 4-COCK DERBY TODAY AT the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City with Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. The fights start at 5 p.m. Roligon matchmakers and derby hosts Tiling Capitan, Fred Canumay and Willie Villaruz said that aside from the cash prize of P300,000, a bonus of P30,000 will be given to the fastest win champion. Meanwhile, the venue's P3 million "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan" 6-cock derby unfolds this Saturday with over 300 entries expected to take part. A participant may field an entry during the 2-cock elimination rounds on July 1, 4 and 6. The semifinals is set on July 8 and the finals on July 11. For inquiries, call Sirley or Jonna at 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

60 fights up in Sta. Ana cockfest today

PROMINENT COCKERS FROM METRO MANILA DISPUTE TOP HONORS tonight in a special 3-cock derby at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on A.P. Reyes Avenue, Makati City. The 60-fight program starts at 7 p.m. Among those invited by host Nelson Pacquiao to vie in the derby are PCAP members William Co, Emil Chua, Lito Orillaza, Efren Canlas, Jun Pascual, Ric Aquino, Ram Lopez, Philip Chiongbian, Richard Bates and the Madlambayan brothers, as well as Pasay City Cockpit's Eric dela Rosa, Cito Manansala, Roming Vergara, Pepito Ngo, Benjie Lim and Pol Estrellado. Meanwhile, P300,000 is at stake in the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan this Saturday at the same venue, according to host Butchoy Olano. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Cheers (2), Federal Court (7), Queen's Gold (6), Dynamic Jason (4)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lord Boni (11), Spark (4), Asukarera De Mama (14), Lord Elgene (9), Kailey's Tiara (8)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Deep (8), Renzie Stays (5), Semper Spirit (7), Karma (3)

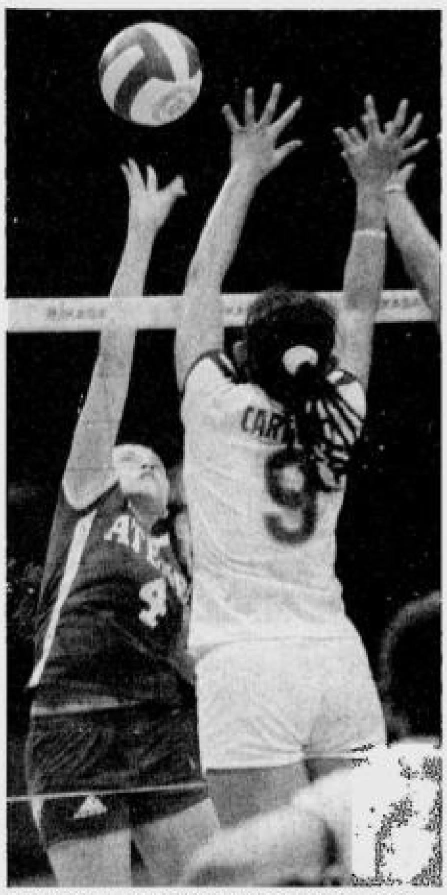
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hard Way (7), Desert Breeze (1), Awesome Power/Song Bird (8), Rastik (3), Princess Dancer (5)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Little Girl (9), Bronia (12), Chicklet (7), King Yoji (2), Ocean Cookie (5)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mercurian (2), Good Heart (3), Blue Sheikh (7), Speed King (1), Slow Dancer (8)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Blitzkrieg (7), Derry (9), Quasimodo (1), Mas Que Nada (4), Prince Valiant (5)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Daddy's Girl (4), Wild Orphan (12), Snow Princess (5), Petro Dollar (6), Lady Cathy (2), Reign of Fire (3)



ATENEO and Lyceum spikers strut their stuff
PDI PHOTO/ERIK ARAZAS

Federer tackles grasscourter in Wimby opener

LONDON—MEN'S CHAMPION ROGER FEDerer and women's second seed Kim Clijsters will have to overcome gifted grasscourters to win their opening matches when Wimbledon starts on Monday.

Federer plays French 20-year-old Richard Gasquet, who won the Nottingham warmup event on Saturday and almost beat Federer at Halle the previous week.

"He reminds me a bit of me sometimes," said the Swiss who needs one win to break Bjorn Borg's record of 41 consecutive victories on grass. "It's definitely a tricky little first round."

Clijsters tackles Russian Vera Zvonareva, who won the Edgbaston warmup event a week ago.

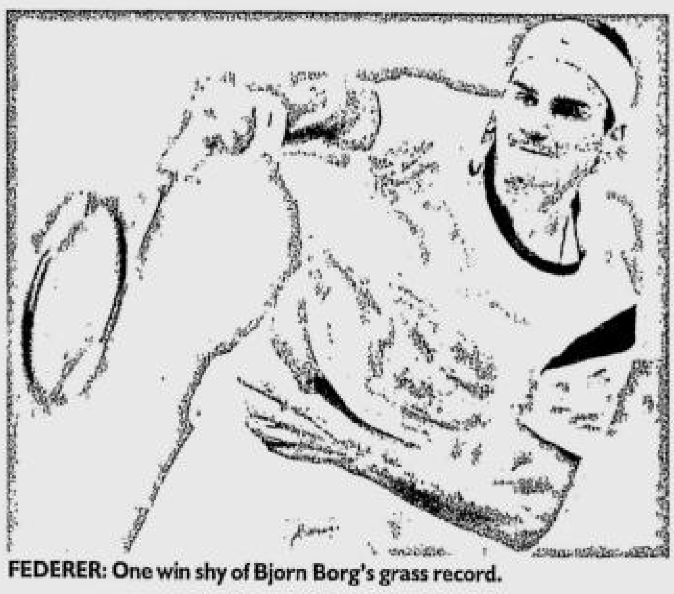
The Belgian US Open champion lost in the Eastbourne semi-finals to compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne and the double French Open champion is also in first-round action on Monday.

Henin-Hardenne, the third seed, faces China's Meng Juan bidding to avoid a repeat of her shock first-round defeat last year.

Switzerland's 1997 champion Martina Hingis plays her first match at Wimbledon in five years against Olga Savchuk of Ukraine.

Other men's seeds in action include number four David Nalbandian of Argentina, number seven Mario Ancic of Croatia and and number eight James Blake of the United States.

Briton Tim Henman faces Swede Robin Soderling after the Clijsters match on court one, where action starts at 1200 GMT. *Reuters*



FEDERER: One win shy of Bjorn Borg's grass record.

Venus looking good

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—ON the eve of tennis' grandest event, Venus Williams walked the halls wearing a chic white sweatsuit, braids reaching nearly to her waist and gold earrings the size of tennis balls.

She tends to stand out — especially at Wimbledon.

For the second year in a row, Williams begins the tournament with little success to draw on in recent months. A long layoff again raised questions about her health and motivation, and she has played only 14 matches since September. Still, she'll be among the favorites when she plays her opening match Tuesday against compatriot Bethanie Mattek. *AP*

Alonso tops Canadian GP for fourth straight win

MONTREAL—THIS WAS THE RACE Michael Schumacher was supposed to close the gap on Fernando Alonso in the chase for the Formula One championship.

After all, Schumacher had won the Canadian Grand Prix seven times. Alonso never had anything but trouble at the Circuit Gilles Villeneueve.

None of that mattered Sunday — Alonso drove his Renault to an easy victory for his fourth consecutive win. The Spaniard has six victories this season and 15 straight top-three finishes.

"It is fantastic," he said. "All the victories are nice, but this one after the last two or three years having a chance to win and then mistakes or mechanical problems, this is one of the races we should have (won) in the previous years."

Alonso had failed to finish the Canadian GP in three of his previous four races, including last year when he crashed while leading. This time, his only problem was staying focused despite leading by almost 25 seconds in the closing laps.

"It was not easy to keep the concentration while leading the race with such a large gap," he said. "You lose concentration of maybe you relax."

The reigning world champion stretched his lead to 25 points over Schumacher, who passed Kimi Raikkonen with one lap to go to finish second. Raikkonen wound up third.

"It's just a shame there wasn't 10 more laps, it could have made it interesting,". Schumacher said.

They now head to Indianapolis for the United States Grand Prix, which Schumacher won last season after Alonso and 13 other drivers boycotted because of concern over tire safety. But Alonso has struggled during F1's North American swing but hopes for better results next week. "Indianapolis is another chance to win and increase the gap again," he said. AP

SSC, Adamson belles dispute last Finals slot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN SEBASTIAN MADE SURE TO SUSTAIN its Finals bid yesterday.

GAMES THURSDAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Adamson

With purpose in its steps and power in its spikes, San Sebastian drubbed Far Eastern U, 25-20, 25-12, 25-18, to set a rubber-match for the second Finals seat against Adamson in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The winner in the 2 p.m. match on Thursday will earn the right to face early finalist La Salle in the best-of-three championship series which starts July 1.

Thai big girl Jaroensri Bualee slammed the enemy lines with an assortment of spikes to come up with a game-high 18 points, including 17 kills.

Her efforts were well supported by local hitter Laurence Ann Latigay, who scattered nine attack points to finish with 10 markers as the Lady Stags posted their ninth win in 15 games.

"I guess the girls realized how important this match was for us," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb. "This should prepare us for the playoffs and hopefully the Finals."

SSC, last year's NCAA champion, finished the eliminations at third place behind La Salle (12-2) and Adamson (9-5), but clinched the sudden-death via the league's five-semis-wins-out-of-eight-games-incentive.

Joy Pulido hit nine points, while Jeanne Cathryn Espolong and Ryssabelle Devanadera added five points each for San Sebastian.

UAAP PREVIEW

Falcons aim to fly high under Austria

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN HE FIRST MET HIS NEW team, coach Leo Austria admits it took some time before he warmed up with the Adamson Falcons.

"Frankly, I was disappointed and frustrated during my first few practices with the team," said Austria. "The team had very deep problems. But the good thing is the players respect me a lot. That allowed me to have patience with them. I shared to the players that I want to help the team. It was very challenging for me."

Although often rated highly in the pre-season, the Falcons have been ending up with disappointing performances in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

Last season, the underachieving squad finished near-bottom with a 3-11 record.

"The past few years, the team failed to meet all the expectations," noted Austria, who took over one-year mentor Mel Alas. "We're trying to correct the players' attitude. But it's not that easy, we can't change that overnight. It's a long process that we started last January."

Aside from emphasizing the importance of team work, Austria said he had to convince his players to believe on the team's potential.

"I have veteran players, but they have no winning experience," he said. "In the last few years, they haven't experienced the winning situation or how to be in the Final Four. So we needed to develop a winning attitude."

The Falcons also had to relearn the game basics with Austria.

"We went back to the fundamentals," the former top PBA point guard said. "It's a different system, but I think they've absorbed it. In the last few weeks, I can see that everybody has adjusted ."

Expected to lead the Falcons is hefty center Ken Bono, who recently shone with the Montaña Jewels to bag the Most Improved Player citation in the PBL.

But Austria said he plans to distribute the scoring load.

"We're not relying on (Bono) heavily," he said. " We're trying to develop other players like (Patrick) Cabahug and (Roel) Hugnatan."

The Falcons will battle pre-season favorite University of the East Warriors in the inaugural game on July 8.

"It remains to be seen, but there's potential in this team," said Austria. "I'm confident that we can do better this year."

LEO Austria

Laguna rules First Touch football fest

THE LAGUNA FOOTBALL CLUB BAGGED THE centerpiece boys' 16-under crown in the 2nd Milo First Touch Football Festival at the Army Support Command park in Fort Bonifacio recently.

Sharing honors with Laguna were Army FC in the boys' 13-and-under, 8-and-under and 6-and-under classes; Montalban FC (boys 12) , Muntinlupa (boys 10), and St. Scholastica's College and Ateneo de Davao University in the girls' Open and 18-and-under divisions, respectively.

The festival attracted a total of 16 schools and was aimed at getting kids involved in football.

Robby Afzelius, Milo brand champion, organizer Mari Martinez, Ascom chief Col. Yerson Depayso and NCR Football Association president Pocholo Borromeo attended the day-long event.

MILO
MILO
MILO
MILO
MILO

SIX-AND-UNDER champion Army FC kids (in light jersey) in action against Kuta Bonifacio.

The other football clubs represented were Chung Hua FC, Don Bosco Tondo, Claret School, Magat Salamat FC, Kuta Bonifacio FC, Muntinlupa FC, Football Club, De La Salle-Dasmariñas, San Beda College, Tondo Unlimited FC, Southridge and Rizal Technological University.

All-women adventure race slated at La Mesa

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST FEMALE adventure racers are expected to see action in the Rudy Girl Challenge, a 10-hour event set this Saturday at the La Mesa Eco Park Forest Reserve in Balara, Quezon City.

A field of 100 two-woman teams will dispute P250,000 worth of prizes in the race backed by David's Salon Foundation and held in cooperation with Rudy Project, Ford Global City, the ABS-CBN Foundation, and the La Mesa Eco Park.

"More than being just an adventure race, this event is aimed at creating more awareness for the environment, specifically for the importance of protecting the La Mesa Eco Park Forest Reserve," said project director Ron Larocque.

"One of our adopted concerns is environmental protection and the need for people to know they have responsibilities in this area," said David's Salon CEO David Charlton.

Titles in four categories will be disputed in the race which features rappelling, orienteering, climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and tree planting.

FUTSAL SQUEAKER

Goalie shines as Xavier nips Ateneo

RAYMOND CORDOVA STRUCK TWICE in the first half and goalkeeper Emil Balidio scored the clincher in the second, as Xavier Alumni FC slipped past Ateneo, 3-2, Saturday in the men's Second Division-A in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the FMAC Gym at La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City.

Cordova scored in the ninth and 20th minutes but it was Balidio's tie-breaking penalty in the 39th minute that assured Xavier's win. Ateneo had earlier tied the match early in the second half, 2-2, with a goal each from Robbie de Vera and Francis Rodriguez.

The win enabled Xavier to wrest the solo lead at 3-0 in the men's Second Division-A of the tournament sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

Ateneo dropped to second spot at 2-1.

In other matches in the same division, AFP Selection downed Marines, 3-2, to even its mark at 1-1. Marines took its second loss in as many matches.

In the lone women's game, Archers 650 found Vintage FC a tough nut to crack and settled for a 5-5 draw.

Archer Patty Silva and Vintage's Sherdal Thomason traded goals for their respective squads in the fifth minute.

Candice Grey added two goals for the Archers and Brenda Gayagoy put in two for Vintage.

Archers 650 improved its record to 2-1-1 (win-draw-loss), a win in front of Vintage (1-1-1).

Air Force, meanwhile, posted its third win in as many starts with an 11-3 demolition of Navy in the men's First Division play.

Emelio Caligdong again led Air Force's assault by scoring eight of his team's 11 goals, five of which came in the first half of play.

Navy dropped to the cellar with a 0-1-2 card.

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STORMY WORLD CUP

Portugal, England barge into final 8

BERLIN—PORTUGAL BEAT THE Netherlands, 1-0, on Sunday in a stormy World Cup clash in which Russian referee Valentin Ivanov sent off four players, a record for the finals.

Midfielder Maniche scored the only goal in the 23rd minute, striking forcefully inside the box after a nice lay off from striker Pauleta.

Portugal held on for the victory in a showdown marred by shoving matches and a seemingly endless stream of yellow cards.

Referee Ivanov sent off Portugal's Costinha and Deco and Dutchmen Khlaid Boulahrouz and Giovanni van Bronckhorst, while eight other players were booked.

Portugal now face England in the quarterfinals in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday. Sven-Goran Eriksson's side labored again but emerged with the win thanks to a trademark bending free kick from captain David Beckham an hour into the match.

Beckham was sick on the pitch shortly after his goal and said he had felt unwell before a game played in stifling heat.

The match between Portugal and the Netherlands in Nuremberg got off to a violent start when Dutchman Mark van Bommel was booked for a foul on Cristiano Ronaldo after only two minutes and things grew increasingly chaotic after that.

Seven minutes into the game, Dutch defender Boulahrouz received another yellow for a vicious high challenge on Ronaldo, which left a cut high up on his right thigh and later forced him to the bench.

In the second half, Ivanov struggled to keep control as tempers frayed between two European nations normally renowned for the quality of their football.

By the end, the referee had given double yellow-cards to Costinha and Deco as well as Dutch defenders Boulahrouz and van Bronckhorst, reducing the match to a nine versus nine fiasco.

The dismissals took the total number of red cards handed out in the World Cup to 23, above the previous record of 22 seen in 1998 in France.

Ivanov came under sharp criticism after the match.

Netherlands coach Marco van Basten added: "It is a pity the referee made a mess of this game. I think in the second half we only played 20 or 25 minutes of football."

Victorious Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who has now won 11 straight World Cup matches after steering Brazil to the title in 2002, was simply happy with the win.

"All I can think about today is this victory," he said.

Beckham came to the rescue on 60 minutes, curling a long-range kick into the right corner of keeper Cristian Mora's goal. Portugal and England join Argentina and Germany in the last eight

Reuters

RICARDO celebrates Portugal's victory. AP

PORTUGUESE Nuno Valente (right) beats Dutch forward Arjen Robben to the ball. AFP

Beckham hits back at critics with free kick

DAVID Beckham celebrates after scoring the winning free kick for England off Ecuador goalkeeper Cristian Mora (right) in the 60th minute. The match ended at 1-0. AFP

STUTTGART—DAVID BECKHAM HIT BACK AT HIS CRITics with a trademark freekick against Ecuador that took England into the World Cup quarterfinals, and he was reveling in his moment of glory.

The England captain, who was physically sick during a match played in draining conditions, curled his shot past Cristian Mora in the 60th minute to hand his side a 1-0 win and a showdown with Portugal.

"It was nice to silence a few people who have been critical. I can handle my criticism and I'll prove them wrong," he said.

"It was a great feeling to get a goal and put us into the quarterfinal." Steven Gerrard said after the match that Beckham went out with "a point to prove" after taking some stick following largely anonymous games in the group stages.

Some commentators and ex-players have called him to be axed—an unthinkable proposition before the World Cup.

One of his main critics has been former England captain Terry Butcher, who has repeatedly urged Sven-Goran Eriksson to jettison Beckham, who earns an estimated 32 million dollars a year, for "under-achieving.". On the eve of the match against Ecuador Butcher suggested in his column for Britain's Sunday Mirror that pressure from sponsors was preventing Eriksson from dumping the marketable celebrity icon.

"England is now in danger of abusing its resources. It could also be termed as gross mismanagement," he said.

AFP

Ref causes dirtiest WC match ever, says coach

VAN BASTEN

NUREMberg—Fuming Dutch coach Marco van Basten hit out at the referee and "time-wasting" by Portugal after a World Cup defeat marked by 16 yellow cards and four dismissals.

Van Basten blamed the Russian referee and Portuguese trickery for the shambolic encounter that entered the record books as the dirtiest in World Cup history.

"It's also a pity that a referee in such an important game should make decisions in this way so we won't be able to see enough football in the second half," he said.

The Netherlands went a goal down after 23 minutes but their hopes were buoyed when Costinha was sent off just before half-time.

However, two Dutch players were among three second-half dismissals as the last 16 match descended into a stop-start mess of fouls and shoving matches.

Both teams ended the night with nine players and there were another eight on yellow cards as Portugal scraped home 1-0 winners.

"Out of the 45 minutes we weren't able to play enough football," van Basten said.

"Every minute there was a foul or the referee whistled so we weren't able to play proper football. It's unfortunate."

Van Basten said Portugal had deliberately tried to disrupt the game by claiming fouls and arguing with the referee.

"Portugal is an experienced opponent, I think that was the difference," he said.

"They were just a little bit more experienced with all these tricks."

His gamble in dropping first-choice striker Ruud van Nistelrooy failed to pay off with Dirk Kuyt unable to find the net despite good service from the wings.

Even late in the game, van Basten refused to bring on van Nistelrooy preferring to use PSV Eindhoven's Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink.

"With these small spaces it's difficult to play football so that's the reason we brought on Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink instead," van Basten said.

Van Nistelrooy admitted hating watching the match from the bench, where he has spent most of the season with Manchester United.

AFP

100 people nabbed in Hong Kong for illegal bets

HONG KONG—MORE THAN 100 PEOple have been arrested in Hong Kong for illegal gambling on football since the World Cup kicked off, police said Monday.

Police said betting slips worth more than 50 million dollars ($6.4M) had been seized in about 50 operations since the opening of the World Cup in Germany on June 9.

In the nearby gambling center of Macau, police raided a soccer betting racket on Saturday, seizing 100 million dollars ($12.8M) in betting slips.

According to local press, the racket was operated by a Hong Kong triad gang. A Hong Kong man, a Macau man and five mainland Chinese men were arrested during the raid.

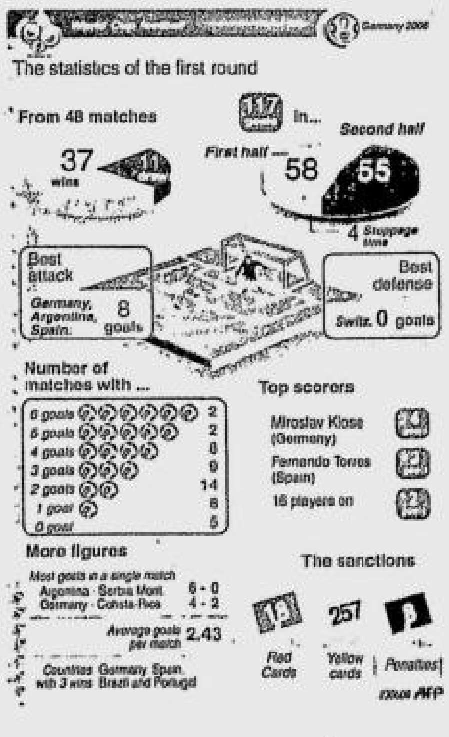
The World Cup finals are expected to prove a big draw for punters in Hong Kong where the government estimates 50-60 billion Hong Kong dollars worth of bets are placed with illegal bookies annually.

Legal soccer gambling was introduced in this gambling-mad southern Chinese territory in 2003 in a bid to drive underground bookmakers out of business.

But restriction on the types of bets offered, coupled with the endemic nature of soccer betting here has meant the illicit trade continues to thrive.

Police said they have teamed up with forces in Southeast Asia and China to stamp out the problem.

Reuters, AFP



Brazil brings color, rhythm, 600-strong media entourage

DORTMUND—BRAZIL BRINGS COLor, rhythm, panache and exotic fans to the World Cup, all good reasons to make it almost everyone's second favorite team.

It also brings its equally colorful 600-strong media pack.

Rather like a herd of wildebeest crossing the Serengeti, the Brazilian media descend upon unsuspecting venues, flattening—and interviewing—everything in its path.

If their flamboyant behavior may have caused a stir among the local population at Brazil's training centers in Germany, it was nothing compared with what took place at the pre-World Cup camp in Switzerland.

At the little resort of Weggis, a typically idyllic Swiss village lying on the banks of Lake Lucerne, cows graze peacefully on the hillsides, the streets are normally spotless and orderly, traffic rules are rigorously respected.

Most restaurants are shut by 10 o'clock in the evening.

The players, locked away in a luxury lakeside hotel, were barely noticeable, only emerging for training sessions.

By contrast, the media were impossible to miss.

For two weeks, Weggis's orderly traffic resembled a mini-Rio de Janeiro as hire cars stopped in the middle of the road without warning, ignored zebra crossings and ran roughshod over parking restrictions.

There is probably nothing in the sporting world which can compare with the Brazilian media corps in action.

Globo television sent a 150-team strong-team to Weggis, just to cover practices, and have dispatched the presenters of all four of their daily news programs to Germany for the World Cup.

Training sessions are broadcast live back home, accompanied by a fever-pitch commentary.

But it is the radio reporters who stand out.

Radio is much bigger than in Europe and even stations from remote cities such as Macapa, which lies on the northern banks of the Amazon river, have sent reporters to Germany to cover such pressing matters as Ronaldinho's latest haircut.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 263 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

MTRCB decision: 3 shows, stations should apologize

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS A RESULT OF AN ADJUDICATION hearing called by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) on June 20, three stations have been instructed to apologize for various violations made on three shows.

Among the offending programs are the morning talk show "Home Boy" on ABS-CBN, the men's magazine show "It's a Guy Thing" on Studio 23 and the prime-time sitcom "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita" on GMA 7.

All three shows were given "a stern warning that a repetition of said violation shall be dealt with severely." The shows' producers were also ordered to "diligently monitor" future episodes and to "write a letter of apology addressed to the board."

BOY Abunda: "I'm sorry."

The board's decision and instructions were contained in separate letters dated June 22 and addressed to network executives Socorro Vidanes, senior vice president for television production of ABS-CBN, Jose Mari Abacan, vice president for program management of GMA 7 and Leo Katigbak, managing director of Studio 23.

Studio 23 is the UHF affiliate of ABS-CBN.

"Home Boy" was reprimanded for a "live" episode that tackled the subject, "Relationships and Women," aired on May 18.

According to MTRCB chair Ma. Consoliza Laguardia, the show's guests—model Melanie Marquez and sexy stars Keanna Reeves, Maui Taylor and Ella V.—discussed "topics ... with sexual nuances not suited for TV broadcast, considering its [morning] time slot."

In the response letter dated June 21, Luis Andrada, business unit head of "Home Boy," explained that "the discussion did not focus lengthily on the subject of sex, nor were the guests' statements ... inappropriate or offensive."

Andrada "assured" the board that the show's producers and host Abunda, "have been very prudent and mature about the choice and handling" of topics.

Andrada added that, "consistent with [the network's] policy of self-regulation ... the

MTRCB/ A2-6

THAT 'PINOY' SPIRIT

They came, they sang, they danced. Some triumphed; others faltered. That the youthful aspirants, who auditioned for the ABS-CBN reality shows "Pinoy Dream Academy" and "Pinoy Big Brother Season Two," bravely faced the stern judges (from left, with their backs to the camera, Jillmer Dy, Lauren Dyogi and Richard Reynante) was small victory for most. What's next for these hopefuls? More trials and tests before the shows' premieres—August 2006 for "PDA" and March 2007 for "PBB 2". Reality bites. ***See full story on A2-8.***

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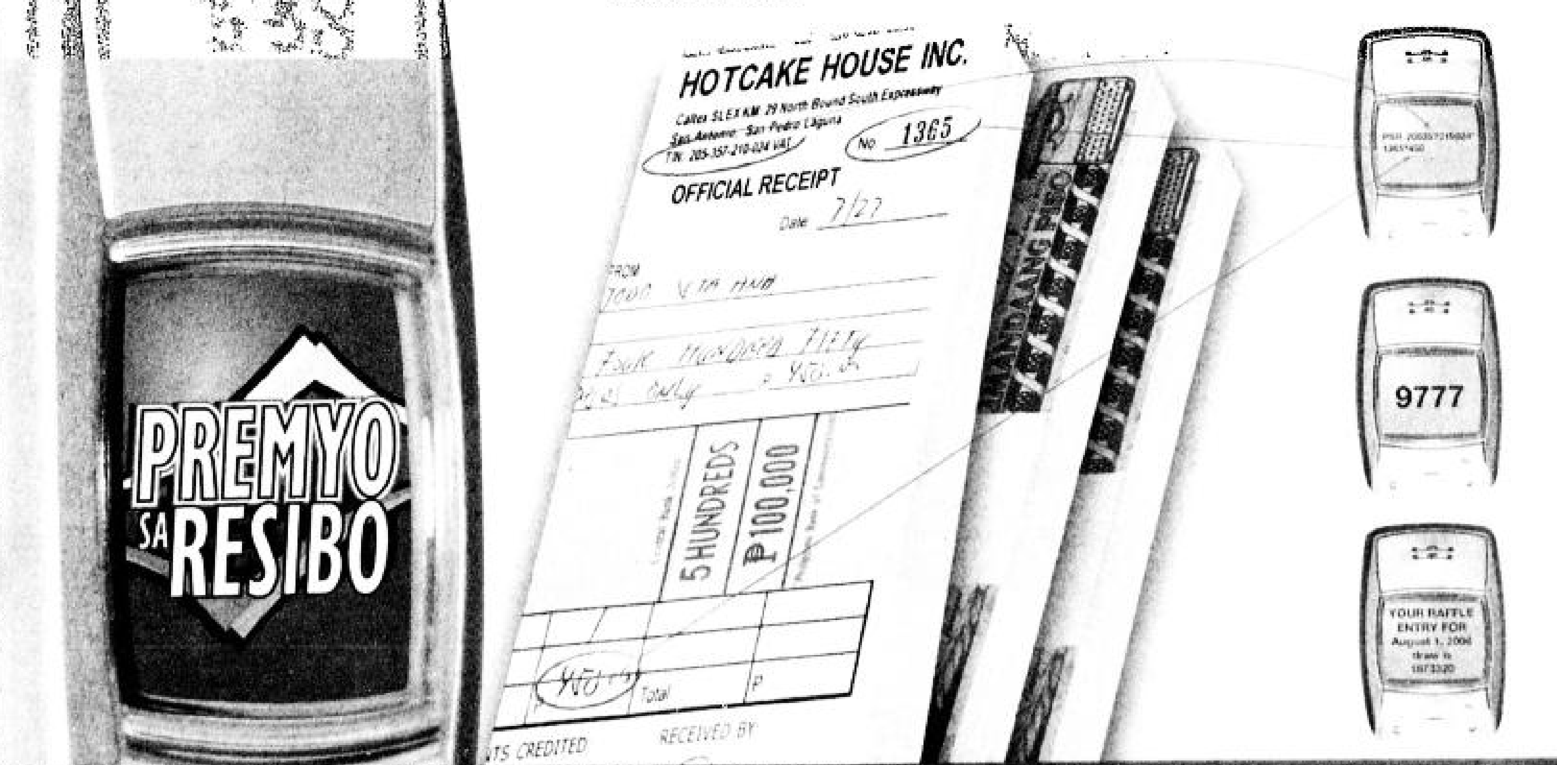

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Schedule of Draws

- Receipts issued should fall within the weekly period prior to the draw date to qualify except for the first draw. Weekly draw day is every Tuesday and deadline of text-raffle entries is 12:00 midnight of the Monday before the draw.

	Draw Dates	Qualified Receipt Dates
1st draw	August 1, 2006	June 1 to July 31, 2006
2nd draw	August 8, 2006	August 1 to 7, 2006
3rd draw	August 15, 2006	August 8 to 14, 2006

Succeeding weekly draw periods will be announced regularly in tv, radio and print ads.

- The draw of the winning raffle entry number/s shall be televised live on the scheduled draw date.

Claiming of Prize

- P1 Million per winner. There will be five (5) winners on the first draw.
- Winning raffle entry number/s shall be published in newspapers.
- Winners will be notified via text and a call on his/her cellphone as to where and how to claim the prize.
- To claim prize, winner must present the following:
  1. Original copy of the receipt used for the text-raffle entry. The date of which must be within the coverage period for that particular draw.
  2. Saved notification text message on the cellphone.
  3. Two valid IDs.
  4. Authorization letter (Applicable only if the receipt is in the name of a company and not under the claimant's name).
- Prize unclaimed after 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited.

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Final countdown

'Top of the Pops' signs off after 42 years

LONDON—"TOP OF THE POPS" HAS HIT rock bottom.

The 42-year-old BBC music show that featured everyone from The Beatles to Bob the Builder is going off the air, a child of the black-and-white era abandoned by a younger generation more attuned to Internet downloads and 24-hour music TV.

After years of declining ratings, the BBC announced this week that the show that has aired weekly since January 1964 would count down its last singles chart on July 30.

Cue an outpouring of nostalgia from Britons—at least those over 30. "A sad day for all of us overgrown teenagers," noted The Daily Telegraph's Neil McCormick, hailing "this silly, exhilarating, infuriating, inspiring, chaotic, trivial grab bag of a music program."

First contact

"For anyone over 35, it's the first contact they had with popular music," said music writer and broadcaster John Aizlewood. In the days before video, he added, "seeing a pop star in the flesh was really unusual."

At its peak in the 1970s—when Britain had only three TV channels—the weekly rundown of the nation's best-selling acts attracted more than 15 million viewers. The format was exported to several European countries and even to the US, where a short-lived version ran in 1987.

Longer life

"Top of the Pops" lasted longer than US television staple "American Bandstand," another show to feature big-name acts performing for a live teenage audience, which ran for 30 consecutive years on ABC between 1957 and 1987.

Commissioned for an initial six shows, "Top of the Pops" racked up more than 2,000 episodes. AP

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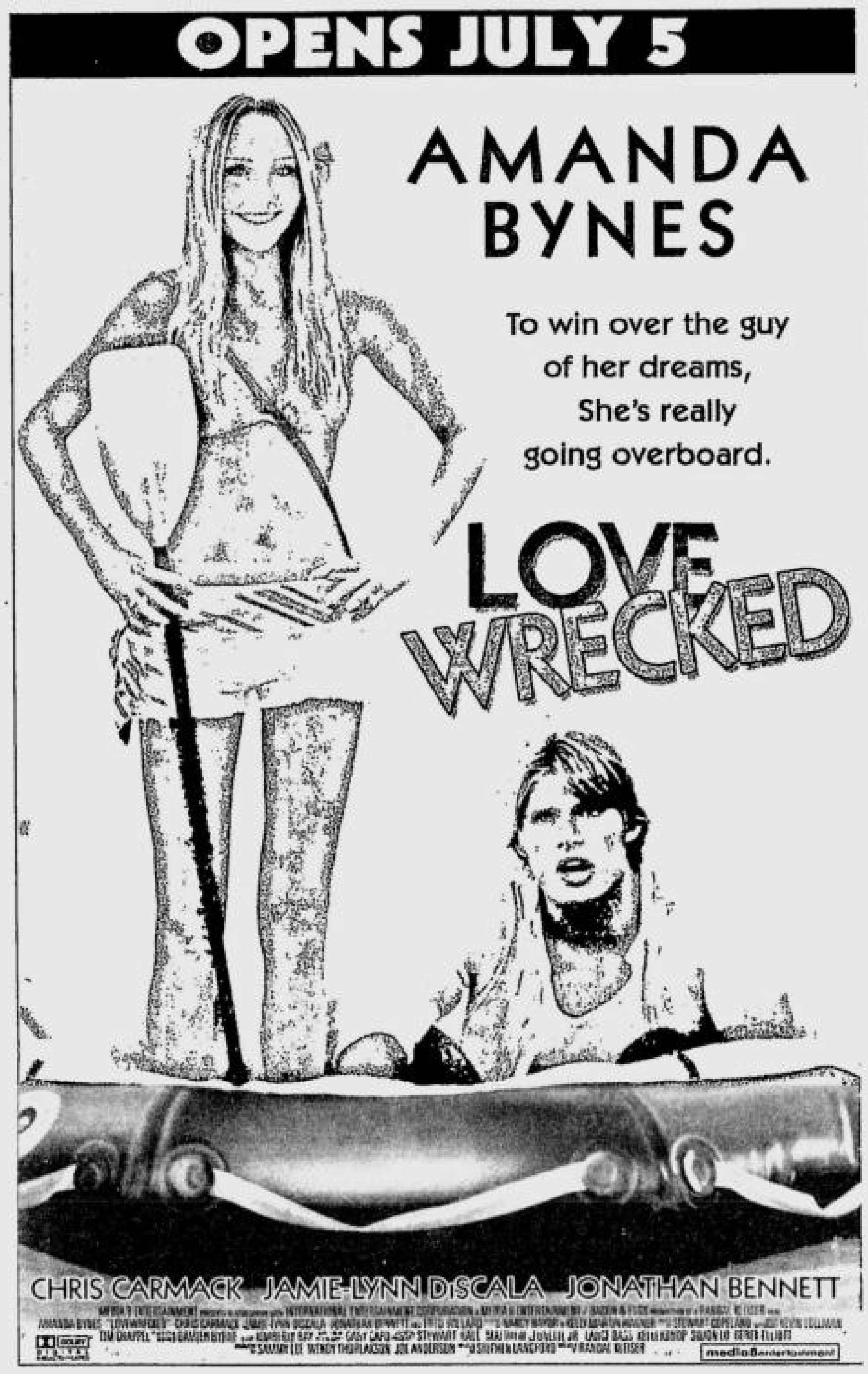
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THE LAKE HOUSE
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
THE LAKE HOUSE
Ali MALL CINEMAS
1 PACQUIAO
2 SCARY MOVIE
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5 TAKE THE LEAD
WHORE 6:40 / 8:40
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INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, June 27, 2006

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ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	World's Most Amazing Videos	TNA Impact		Ultimate Guinness World Records		Big News	ALI			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Nagmamahal, Kapamilya			Insider
AXN		Lost (Season II)		House		The Ultimate Fighter		Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		World's Most Extreme Rides		Alias (Season IV)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy - Double Episodes		The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	[illegible]	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Haragan				Danas				Squala		[illegible]				Aishite Imasu			
Cinemax			On A Clear Day You Can See Forever				Michael Collins (5:45 PM)					Once Upon A Time In Mexico			Blind Side (9:40 PM)			Into The Sun (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Surface		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		The Greatest Ever		Unsolved History		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Countdown To [illegible]		Unsolved History		Countdown To [illegible]	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	[illegible]	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		[illegible]		[illegible]		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia		Extreme [illegible]		Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball: St. John's Vs Duke	Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Germany	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League '05	Sportscenter Asia			Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Blowout 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/Angelus	The Good Code [illegible]	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Empire (3:15 PM)		Back To The Secret Garden (4:15 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Judging Amy		Gentle Ben: Terror On The Mountain			Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO			Real Genius (3:45 PM)				Losing Isaiah				The Road Warrior			Carnivale 17 Creek, Ok.		Carnivale 18 The Road To Damascus		Lethal Weapon 2	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Sorcerer Hunter	Soul Hunters	Lost Universe	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Sorcerer Hunter
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sabis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	[illegible]		Global Family Songs		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Arts	Global Family Songs	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Raw				The Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	[illegible] Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride		Handpicked: [illegible]	MTV Hits (with [illegible])					Get Spotted		MTV Off the Record Track [illegible]	5 Things About Teddy Geiger	TRL		Pimp My Ride		Sessions: Kala	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		[illegible] Machines		Monkey Business	Wildlife Diary	Top 5 - Tornado		WOW! Nature's War Zone		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation: Mountain Mystery		Hunter Hunted: [illegible]	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	[illegible]		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bayan OCW With Susan K.	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	[illegible]	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bagets 2				Maruming Damit				Annie B.				3 Mukha Ng Pag-ibig				[illegible]
QTV	[illegible]		[illegible]	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irena	Noel	Project 11	Family Zoo		News On Q	[illegible]		Irena	[illegible]
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Boarding House North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Trial		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kasaganaan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports						Tennis: WTA [illegible] Open Singles 2				World Tennis Masters [illegible]		OT AS 3Pt. Shoot	NBA Greatest Games [illegible] Finals				Solar Sports Desk	World Tennis Masters ep 12	
Sports Plus			Golf Today	FIFA World Cup '06: Match 52 Round 16						[illegible]	Rookie Manual	Ultimate Fighting Championship				[illegible]		FIFA World Cup '06: Match 51 Round 16	
Star Movies			Sneakers		Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde				The Truth About Love			Confessions of a Sociopathic Social Climber			Puerto Vallarta Squeeze				
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Charmed: Life As We Know It		The O.C.		North Shore/ [illegible]		Seinfeld	Charmed: Life As We Know It
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:30 PM)	Gilmore Girls (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		[illegible]

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

'Aquamarine' star is Robin William's daughter in 'RV'

AFTER THE HIT "AQUAMARINE," teen pop star Jojo continues her foray into the acting world with Columbia Pictures family comedy "RV," a recent No. 1 box-office hit in the US.

Jojo who, at 13, holds the record as the youngest artist to reach No. 1 on the Billboard singles chart, co-stars in "RV" as Robin William's rebellious teenage daughter Cassie.

Director Barry Sonnefeld ("Men in Black") said he cast Jojo for the role because, "She had a kind of confidence you rarely find in a teenage girl. She's already a huge recording star and has played on stage in front of large audiences."

"She brings that confidence to her work," adds producer Douglas Wick, "and when you're playing opposite someone as charismatic and larger than life as Robin, that's a lot to hold up against and she has that presence."

Jojo discusses "RV" and her experience working with Williams:

JOJO with Robin Williams

What are the challenges acting with Robin Williams? I imagine it's like holding your own against a tornado.

Something I accepted early on in the shoot was that you can't try to be on the same level. You can't compete with him. He is Robin Williams. I just try to be the best that I can be. He is basically just the way that he is in the movies. He is just so full of life, he's like manic and all over the place and that's just who he is.

Did you get him to laugh?

I tried, but he's so funny, nothing shocks him. He humored me, I guess.

Was it hard to keep up with him?

He totally works with me, especially when we're on camera and stuff. He would go off script, but he would always come back to a safe place where I knew where to jump in with my line. That's what's so great about him. He would never leave me or any of the actors in a place where they were lost and didn't know where to go from there.

Have you gone on long trips, like in the film, with your family?

Not with my family, but I've been on tour buses so they're kind of like a souped-up version of an RV. So I know what it's like to be in a confined space with a lot of people and one toilet.

Can you talk about the audition pieces?

I did, like, five different auditions. I had to really fight for this role. Another girl was already cast and then they cast me. I was in Australia, shooting "Aquamarine" and then I sent a tape for the role and then I sent in another one. Then I had two satellite meetings with Barry [Sonnefeld]. He had me read, like, so many different times and I really thought I wasn't going to get it. Then I found out that I got it. I met Robin and Barry at the same time.

Can you relate to your character?

I'm like her in many ways. I would hope I'm a little bit nicer than her because she kind of handles her aggression in a mean way. She's pretty mean to her dad, but we both turn to music when we're annoyed or frustrated or feel like our family is crazy, so I turn to my I-pod as well, just like she does.

Tell us about your music career?

My first album came out two years ago. I've only had one and I was the youngest artist to ever have a No. 1 single on Billboard. It went over platinum, over a million copies, and I'm working on my second one right now. It was hard for me to do movies and step away from music, because it was what I've been doing forever and what I love.

Would you rather sing or act?

I like doing both, but I learned early on with music video. You look into the camera and you're supposed to make eye contact. Then I realized with acting you shouldn't do that because it will freak everybody out. People have said you're like a singing actress or an acting singer, but why can't I just be like a person who wants to do more than one thing. But as far as choosing one over the other, I don't really want to choose. I like them both.

(Opening soon across the Philippines, "RV" is distributed by Columbia Pictures.)

Ode to the Roadster

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE PROSPECTS for success of an animated feature about automobiles appear to be dodgy. Sure, the modern world is crazy about cars, which have become much more than just a mode of transportation.

Cars now connote freedom, power, trendiness, upward mobility—even sensual appeal. So, a movie about them would benefit from all of these subliminal resonances.

Tough challenge

On the other hand, making cars come alive, move, talk and "feel" is a tough challenge. After all, automobiles are sleek and metallic, not warm and visually expressive. Transforming them into anthropomorphic creatures that can evoke viewers' delight and empathy would test the best animators' creativity.

Thankfully, the vastly experienced artists and story editors at Pixar have proven that they're up to the difficult challenge. Disney-Pixar's "Cars" is a visual treat, a lively tale "peopled" by a panoply of varied automobile "characters," ranging from sleek, stuck-up Lightning McQueen to his rusty sidekick, an aw-shucks truck.

On point of storytelling, however, the film is weighed down by some predictable characters and situations.

It's Ok for the movie's plot to revolve around an animated variation on the old morality tale of a vain youth who eats humble pie and learns valuable lessons about what life should really be about.

Our "hero" is an ambitious race car who dreams of winning the Piston Cup. But his ambition is sidetracked when he finds himself "trapped" in a dead-end town.

There, he meets other car characters who end up reminding him of the truly important things in life—like friendship, love, tradition, mutual respect and honesty.

The most striking character in this section of the story is an old roadster who turns out to have won the Piston Cup—three times!

And yet, he's buried himself in this ghost town because, after a car crash, the racing world that had previously lionized him turned out to be fickle, and promptly forgot about him.

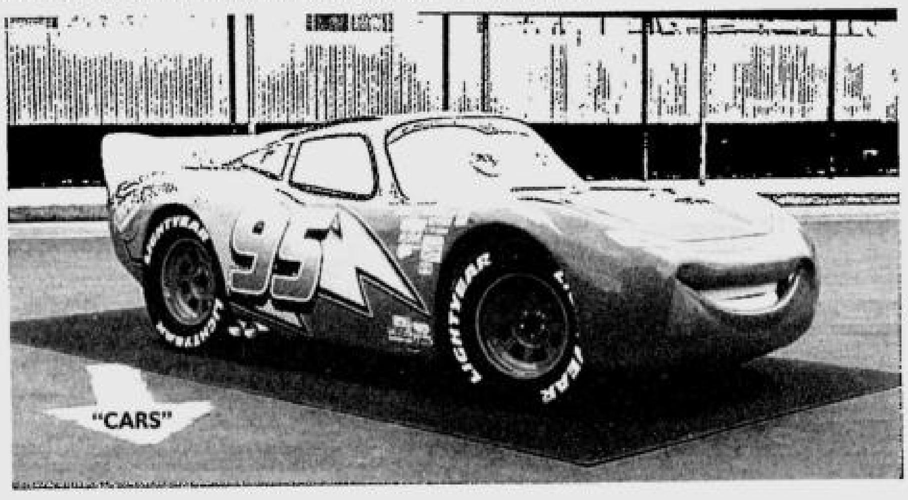
All this is thematically valid, but the film turns icky when it tries to squeeze a "romantic" angle into its plot development. This is where the animators' visualization falls short, and the production's ebullience sags.

Unnecessary

Also distracting and unnecessary are some plot detours that are cute enough, but hinder the movie's breezy progression to its finale.

Despite these storytelling inefficiencies, the film's visualizations see the production through. Particularly difficult to pull off are the car race sequences. They run the risk of becoming repetitious and redundant, but the animators' edgy and exciting visuals keep them eventful and thrilling.

All told, Disney-Pixar has a winsome winner in "Cars," its ebulliently animated Ode to the Roadster.


"CARS"

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE NUN	2 SCARY MOVIE 4	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 PACQUIAO
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 GARFIELD 2	2 THE LAKE HOUSE	3 THX THE FAST & THE FURIOUS TOKYO DRIFT 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KINSEY	5 CARS	6 SCARY MOVIE 4	7 THE SECRET OF THE CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 SCARY MOVIE 4		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE LAKE HOUSE 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 11.20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SCARY MOVIE 4 1:20, 2:20, 4.20, 6.20, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 KINSEY 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GARFIELD 2 - 1:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45 INSIDE MAN - 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CARS 1:26, 3:46, 6:06, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SCARY MOVIE 4	2 CARS		
	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 THE NUN	5 PACQUIAO	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 PACQUIAO	3 HILLS HAVE EYES	4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 THE NUN		
	3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	4 PACQUIAO	5 THE LAKE HOUSE	

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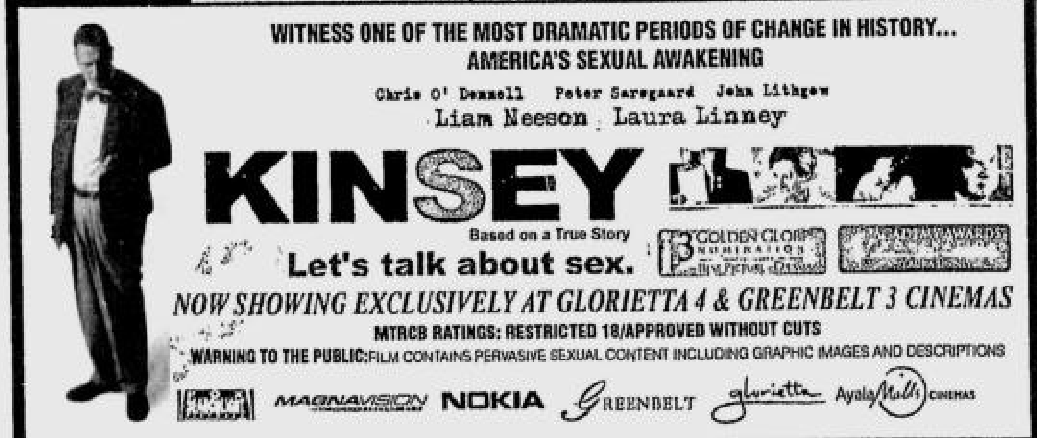
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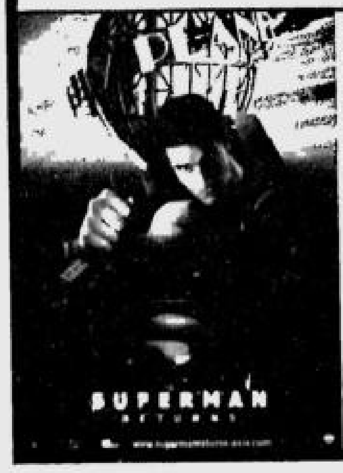
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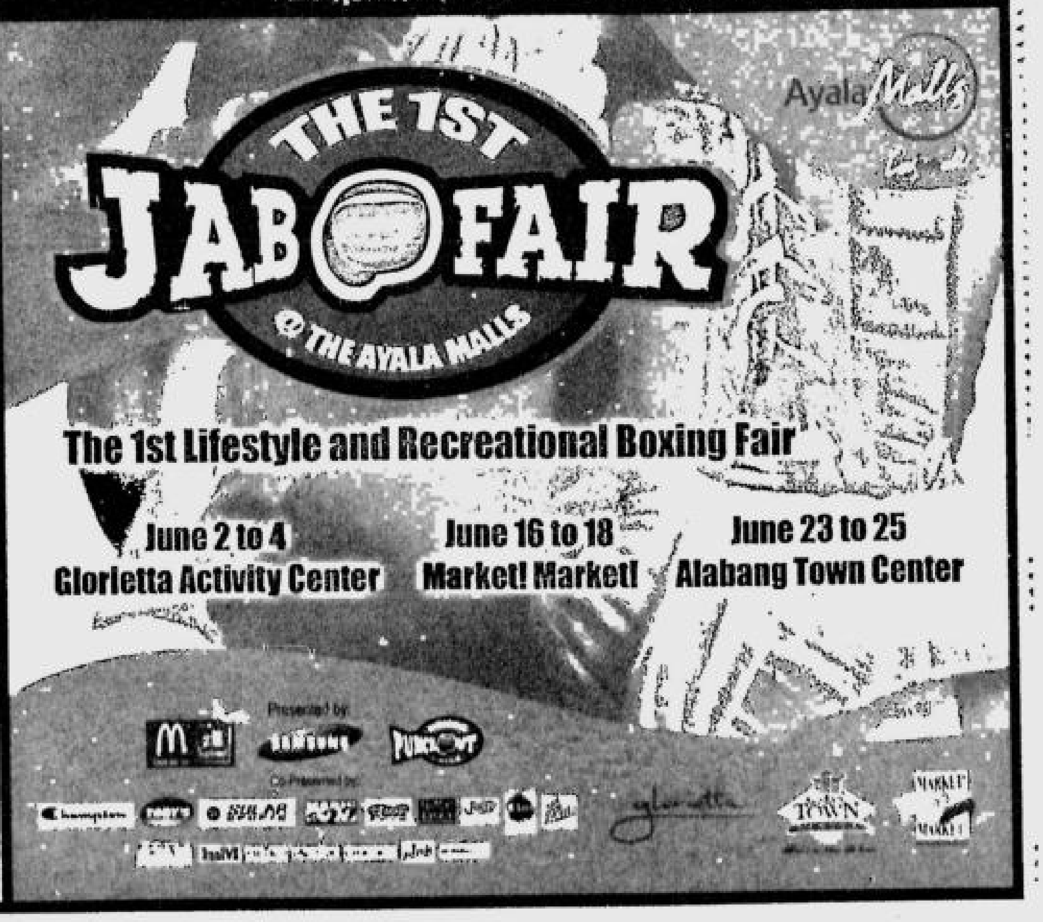
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How Kat McPhee fought bulimia

LOS ANGELES—"AMERICAN idol" runner-up Katharine McPhee struggled for years with bulimia before seeking help, the singer said in an interview published Thursday.

At her worst point, she would throw up as many as seven times a day, putting her singing career in jeopardy.

It was like "putting a sledgehammer to your vocal cords," McPhee told People magazine in an interview published Thursday on its Web site.

McPhee, 22, told the magazine she sought help last fall after successfully auditioning for "American Idol." She enrolled in an eating disorder center in Los Angeles and spent three months in group and individual therapy.

"Growing up in Los Angeles and spending all those years in dance class, I'd been conscious of body image at a young age, and I went through phases of exercising compulsively and starving myself," she said.

Now McPhee said she had lost 30 pounds, thanks to the "intuitive eating" approach she learned in therapy.

"If you look at a doughnut, people think it's a fattening food," said McPhee. "Why? Because if you eat it you'll get fat? No, you'll get fat if you eat 10 doughnuts."

AP

Jeremy wants Alex back

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JEREMY MARQUEZ IS BENT ON winning back **Alessandra ('Alex') de Rossi** as he shrugs off rumors linking him to **Jennylyn Mercado**. "There's nothing between Jen and me. *Bugbog na ako sa intriga,*" he sighs.

No two-timing for him? Only a second time around? "I still love Alex. I'm doing everything to woo her. I'm making myself a better person. Hopefully, one day, I'll be the perfect guy for Alex."

When your heart is in it, the sky's the limit, right Jeremy? Seeing how sweet they were during their unguarded moments, it's such a waste if they throw it all away. Looks like there's hope because their split-up was caused by external and not internal factors. If their hearts still ache for each other, how can they let anything come between them except love?

Ghost of the past?

IN THE new Regal Entertainment ghost story "White Lady," ex-lovers **Pauleen Luna** and **JC de Vera** play two college students who fall in love. Little do they know that their feelings for each other is set to trigger a tide of misfortune for a group of students—including themselves—orchestrated by the vengeful White Lady. So did the ghost of their past romance haunt them?

"While we were shooting, we were able to get rid of the awkwardness because after we split up we were not in speaking terms," says Pauleen. "But we don't want to rush into anything just because people expect us to reconcile. It's enough that we have rekindled our friendship."

I teased JC, "Is there a white or any kind of lady who has replaced Pauleen in your life? He smiled, "I'm unattached now. Pauleen will always have a soft spot in my heart." I noticed that Pauleen and JC have the same eyes if you look at them from up-close. Will they soon see eye to eye and be heart to heart again?

KEANNA Reeves

Bonggang movie

BONG Revilla was in a euphoric mood at the victory party he hosted for the success of his movie "Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso, Not Once But Twice." It grossed P10 million in one week. "It inspires me to produce more films My next project will be a comedy again with **Regine Velasquez.** During these hard times, people really need a good laugh," Bong said.

Fatherhood is no laughing matter for him, though. "I sit down with my kids and really talk to them, especially to Jolo who's a dad already." He is such a supportive dad that he is also helping Grace (the mom of Jolo's lovechild) with her education. "*Di na iba sa amin si* Grace so we are helping her with whatever she needs in her schooling in Baguio. Jolo visits her there once in a while. *Mabuti nga na dun sila para malayo sa intriga.*" After all the controversies their family has been through, it's Bong's humility and openness that has made his life now intrigue-free. Till the next "*intrigang*" tumibok, huh, *Kumpareng* Bong?

One-liners

HERE are some juicy one-liners I gathered as I made the rounds in the showbiz scene:

Pops Fernandez: "I think **Martin (Nievera)** has a lot of other more important things to attend to in his life right now as a father-to-be than to react to my daring and sexy costume as Queen Femina in 'Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah.'"

Paolo Ballesteros: "My love life is zero but that doesn't mean my sex life is, too. You can have one without the other sometimes."

Rustom Padilla: "I have no limitations in portraying a gay or straight role. All out *na talaga ako* as a persona and as an actor."

Keanna Reeves: "I refuse to believe that just because I'm famous now, I can't tell who my true friends are. I don't wanna go around thinking that people are out to take advantage of me. Just like when I was a nobody, I still see the good in people."

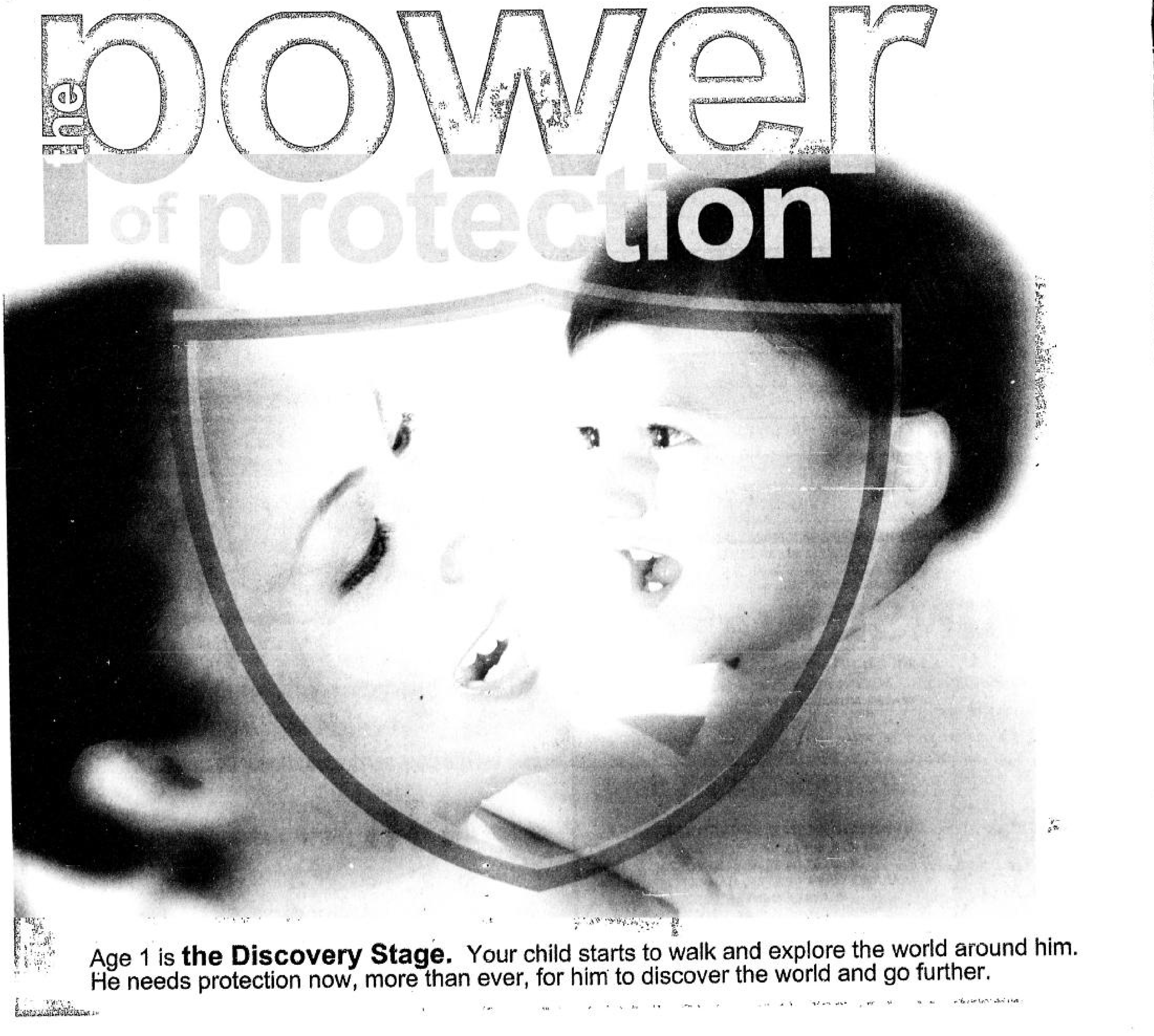
ALESSANDRA de Rossi

Singing Olympics

FAITH Cuneta, the Asianovela Diva of the Philippines, has been chosen to represent the Philippines in the prestigious World Championship of the Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Hollywood. She will be competing with 51 participants from all over the globe. The victory of **Jed Madela** and **Rizza Navales** in last year's WCOPA inspires Faith to continue the winning streak. Joining Faith in the competition are soulful prince Juaquin, up and coming singer **Rommel Luna**, Pinoy Pop Superstar **Jonnalyn Viray** and Pinoy Pop finalist Brenan.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com

POPS Fernandez



Age 1 is **the Discovery Stage.** Your child starts to walk and explore the world around him. He needs protection now, more than ever, for him to discover the world and go further.

Who are the real Platters?

FEEDBACK

From Jo and Beck of Makati:

We are sending these photos (one is printed here) hoping they might help show the faces of the veteran group The Platters.

We believe the singers here are the real thing.

We recently came back from Las Vegas, where we were lucky to get tickets to The Platters show at the Sahara Hotel.

Perhaps, the group (or their managers) has a franchise business of sorts.

In fact, we just found a reference on the Internet.

But we're getting ahead of the story.

So we enjoyed the show and were so thrilled, we went backstage to chat with the group.

"So," we said, "did you enjoy your tour of the Philippines?" They looked at us like were were joking.

"You know," we persisted, "Makati, Manila, Mactan?"

The stern reply: "We were never there."

Huh?

Here's the reference bit we found online:

"When the Platters disbanded, several of its members started their own new versions of the band, using the same name. This franchising attitude continues to this day—there are an estimated 125 vocal groups calling themselves 'The Original Platters' currently performing."

We got these from http://www.hotshotdigital.com/tribute/Platters.html.

'Erotica LA' convention

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—WHAT HAPPENS WHEN some 50,000 people gather together over the weekend to celebrate the pleasures of the flesh in the worldwide capital of pornography?

Expect 300 exhibitors unveiling the latest in sex toys, paraphernalia and publications, with porn star Jenna Jameson and rock guitarist Dave Navarro hosting the three-day 10th annual "Erotica LA" convention.

Auditions were up for the movie "Debbie Does Dallas ... Again" produced by Vivid Entertainment, one of the world's largest pornographic film production companies, and proceedings were filmed for an upcoming reality television show.

A series of sex seminars covered a range of topics, including the aphrodisiacal properties of chocolate.

A free breast implant surgery was even given by a company dedicated to "boosting the self-esteem of women of all legal ages."

Christian groups were expected to picket the convention, with one group planning to distribute several thousand "Jesus Loves Porn Stars" Bibles.

AFP

Why Mark still has no girlfriend

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER MARK Bautista confessed that he used to feel uncomfortable on the set of his noon-time variety show, "ASAP," whenever couple Christian Bautista and Rachelle Ann Go were around.

"After the news that Rachelle and I were being linked to each other came out on 'The Buzz,' we all felt ill-at-ease on the set," Mark told entertainment writers over lunch last week. "The thing is, I didn't actually tell 'The Buzz' that I had courted her."

Apart from Mark, Rachelle Ann was also linked to male celebrities Erik Santos, Jed Madela and Luis Manzano. But it was only recently that the she admitted to having a relationship with Christian, whom she said courted her for two years.

"I talked with Rachelle and Christian about it. I made sure of that. We work in one show. It's hard to be around people you're not comfortable with," Mark pointed out. "Everything is OK now. We're all cool about it."

The lunch party was to celebrate Mark's winning the Favorite Remake Award (" Need You") from Myx Music Channel. Also present during the party were Rachelle Ann (Favorite Female Artist), Rivermaya (Favorite Music Video and Favorite Media Soundtrack, both for "You'll Be Safe Here"), and Anne Curtis (Favorite Guest Appearance in a Music Video in Mark Bautista's "I Need You").

How come you don't have a girlfriend? Is it because you're so busy with work?

I know it's not normal [not to have a girlfriend]. I'm hardly around. I just don't want to be unfair to her. I'm busy with the provincial tour for "Pop Heartthrob." We've gone to Liloan, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. I'll be having shows with Sarah Geronimo in Bahrain and Saipan later this year.

If ever I'd have a girlfriend, I hope she will not be from show biz. *Ang gulo kasi.*

Are you *torpe*?

I used to be. I guess it helped that I'm an *artista* now. I'm more confident. I used to feel intimidated by girls, especially those who come from Manila. I've only had two relationships in the province. We're still in touch.

What happened to your budding romance with Jasmine Trias?

We became close after working in a show together. It's true that I brought her flowers and watched her show here, but I didn't court her. If she were living here, things would have been different.

What do you look for in a girl?

Physically? I like the chinky-eyed and *morena* types. I also like them to be tall. Jasmine is a really sweet girl. I like that about her.

How are Filipinas living abroad "interesting?"

I met one during my first trip to the United States. She's in her 30s. She wanted us to meet at the gym in the hotel I was staying at. I didn't show up because the meeting time had been too early.

That night, I heard someone knocking on my hotel door. I was already in my sleepwear then. It was her. She handed me a Fossil watch. I took it from her and simply closed the door.

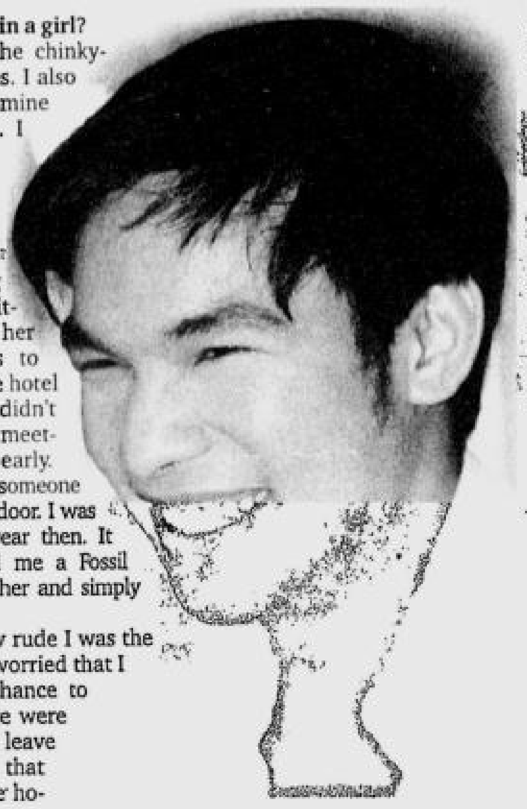
I only realized how rude I was the following day. I was worried that I wouldn't have the chance to thank her because we were already scheduled to leave that day. It was good that she showed up at the hotel again.

Days after I arrived home, I received a package from her. She sent me bed sheets with our picture printed on them. She also gave me a CD of my songs, which she recorded. She stopped sending me stuff long before the Champions returned for our second US tour. I never saw her again.

There's another girl, but she's not Filipina. She's a princess in Bahrain. She's autistic. She said she had a big crush on me. People there said the princess recognized me because her nannies were Filipinas.

You've recorded albums, appeared in a movie and won an award. Is there anything else you wish to accomplish?

Ang magkaroon ng girlfriend (laughs).



MARK Bautista JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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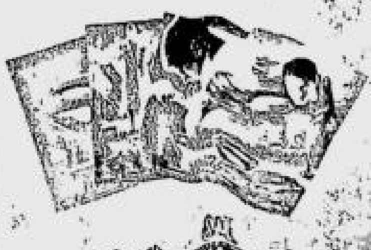

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IN CINEMAS JUNE 28
www.supermanreturns-asia.com

3D only In IMAX Theater SM Mall of Asia
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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA
San Miguel Coca-Cola
IMAX THEATER
EVEREST
02:00 06:30 11:00
NASCAR 3D
11:00 12:30 03:30 05:00 08:00 09:30
PREMIERE CINEMA
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE NUN
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
GARFIELD 2
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SCARY MOVIE 4
CINEMA 2
LAKE HOUSE

SM NORTH EDSA
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
THE NUN
LAKE HOUSE
SECRET OF THE CODE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
AMERICAN HAUNTING
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY BICUTAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM MEGACINEMA
TAKE THE LEAD
LAKE HOUSE
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
THE NUN
AMERICAN HAUNTING
THE OMEN
XMEN III
SECRET OF THE CODE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
SCARY MOVIE 4
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
CARS
THE NUN
SECRET OF THE CODE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
MANAY PO
GARFIELD 2
XMEN III
THE NUN
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
LAKE HOUSE
CARS
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY STA. MESA
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
THE NUN
LAKE HOUSE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
CARS
XMEN III
SECRET OF THE CODE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY MANILA
XMEN III
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SECRET OF THE CODE
SINE TOTOO
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AMERICAN HAUNTING
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE NUN
TAKE THE LEAD
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SCARY MOVIE 4
CARS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
SCARY MOVIE 4
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY SUCAT
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY BAGUIO
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

SM CITY MARILAO
GARFIELD 2
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SCARY MOVIE 4

SM CITY BACOOR
AMERICAN HAUNTING
TAKE THE LEAD
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
INSIDE MAN
TAKE THE LEAD

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY LUCENA
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY CLARK
NOW OPEN
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
CHAOS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
SCARY MOVIE 4
CHAOS
LAKE HOUSE
INSIDE MAN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY MOLINO
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
GARFIELD 2
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY STA. ROSA
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
GARFIELD 2
SCARY MOVIE 4
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

SM CITY CEBU
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
GARFIELD 2
THE OMEN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
XMEN III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
INSIDE MAN
RESERVED
CARS
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
SCARY MOVIE 4
GARFIELD 2
RESERVED
THE OMEN

SM CITY DAVAO
SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE
SECRET OF THE CODE
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AQUAMARINE
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
THE OMEN
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
AQUAMARINE
INSIDE MAN

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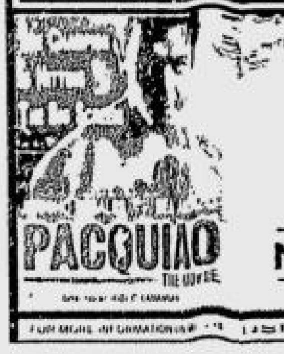
movietime | movietime



PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMAS

FOR MORE INFORMATION [illegible] LISTING MTRCB RATING SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116
1 LAKE HOUSE • THX 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 SCARY MOVIE 4 11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 VICTORY
6 THE NUN 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
7 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 WHORE 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
9 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
10 CARS 12:00 2:30
GARFIELD 2 5:35 7:40 9:45

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 SCARY MOVIE 4 10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:00 1:40 3:20 5:00 6:40 8:20 10:00
3 GARFIELD 2 12:00 1:55 3:50
WHORE 6:00 8:00 9:50
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 THE NUN 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 11:00 3:20
LAKE HOUSE 5:45 7:45 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 1:05 3:45 6.25 9:05
2 SCARY MOVIE 4 11:20 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9.00
4 CARS 12:00 2:25 4:50
GARFIELD 2 7:15 9:00
5 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 11:50 2:10 4:30 6.50 9.10
6 LAKE HOUSE 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 GARFIELD 2 12:30 2:40 4.50 7:00 9:10
8 THE NUN 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 THE FAT AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 LAKE HOUSE
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 THE NUN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 THE NUN
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 LAKE HOUSE

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 GARFIELD 2
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 THE OMEN
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 CARS
4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
5 SCARY MOVIE 4

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 SCARY MOVIE 4

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 CHAOS
2 SCARY MOVIE 4
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (046) 961-5270
1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH / LAKE HOUSE
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 CHAOS
6 THE INSIDE MAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 CARS
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 THE OMEN
5 GARFIELD 2
6 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 CARS
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 GARFIELD 2
5 THE INSIDE MAN
6 THE OMEN

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MTRCB decision: 3 stations should apologize

From page A2-1

show will continue to be careful about [its subjects], considering the nature of the program and its time slot."

Stopping short of an outright apology, Andrada merely stated in his letter that the "host shall acknowledge to the public that the show's attention was called by the board."

In a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Abunda said he had already made a public apology on "Home Boy." This was confirmed by Laguardia, who said the apology was aired in the June 21 episode.

Laguardia related that a similar violation had been committed on the primetime magazine show for men, "It's a Guy Thing" in its May 31 episode.

"Sex was again the topic," Laguardia said.

After the June 20 hearing, Nelson Edson M. Aguiflor, creative director of Studio 23 who was writing on behalf of Katigbak, assured the board that each episode would be submitted for review starting July 5.

Aguiflor also promised that the station, along with the show's co-producer Ideal Minds Corporation, would "continue to be careful in the choice of topics ... and the manner of presentation; and acknowledge that the show's attention was called by the board."

Laguardia said the offense on the GMA 7 comedy show "Lagot Ka" involved a joke about male genitals delivered by mainstay Raymart Santiago and guest Jay Manalo in its May 15 episode.

In a June 21 letter, Redgie Magno, GMA 7 program manager who was writing on behalf of Abacan, stressed that the sitcom's future episodes "[shall be submitted] for review prior to airing."

Magno also wrote that the "program shall air a public apology for the use of inappropriate language."

He concluded that its "sincere apology" shows that "GMA Network constantly carries out the necessary measures to help maintain the high quality of its programs."

Laguardia also acknowledged f channel's response and GMA 7's counter-affidavit on two separate issues.

GMA 7's documentary show, "I-Witness," was chided by the board because of the episode "Lukayo: Hindi Ito Bastos," while f channel was scolded because of scenes depicting frontal nudity.

"We will decide on 'Lukayo' later this week. We will announce it along with our decision on f channel," Laguardia said.

OVER THE HEDGE US actor Bruce Willis shows up for the premiere of his latest film, "Over the Hedge," in London, but it's his pal the turtle who gets to dance with an eager fan! AFP

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1 FAST & FURIOUS 3
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

2 LAKE HOUSE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP

3 SCARY MOVIE 4
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55
R-13

4 CARS
11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
GP

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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
PG13
3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00

SCARY MOVIE 4
R13
2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00

CARS
GP
12:40 5:10,9:40 -
GARFIELD 2
G
3:10,7:40

THE LAKE HOUSE
PG13
1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00

THE NUN
R13
1:25,3:30,5:35,7:40,9:45

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
PG13
12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LAKE HOUSE
MTRCB GP
1 20, 3 30, 5 40, 7 50, 10 00

2 SCARY MOVIE 4
MTRCB R-13
1 20, 3 30, 5 40, 7 50, 10 00

3 CARS 12 50,5:25,10:00
MTRCB GP
GARFIELD 2 3:30,8:05
MTRCB GP

4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
MTRCB PG-13
12 20, 2 45, 5 10, 7 35, 10 00

PREMIERE THEATRE
AMERICAN HAUNTING
1 50, 3 45, 5 40, 7 35, 9 30
MTRCB PG-13

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1 THE NUN
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50
R13

2 CARS
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
GP

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PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING

3 FAST & THE FURIOUS
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
PG13

4 SCARY MOVIE
10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
R13

5 THE LAKE HOUSE
10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
GP

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JUNE 23,24&30,2006	NINA in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
JULY 8,2006	GLADYS GUEVARA	9:00PM

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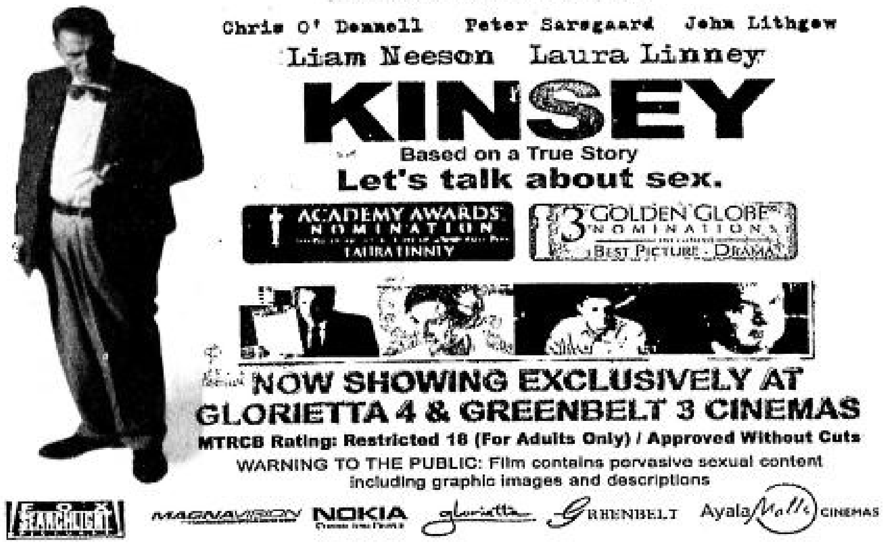

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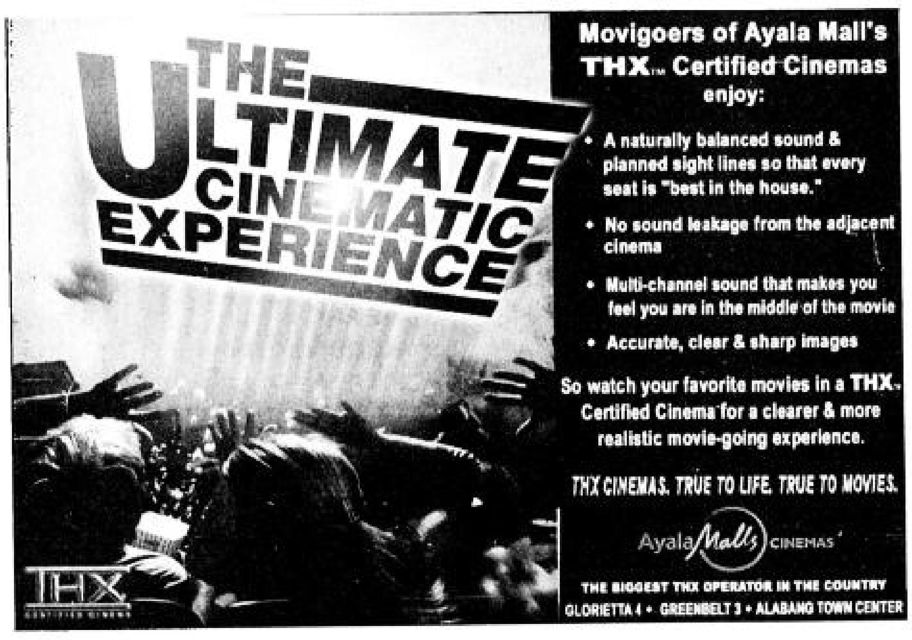

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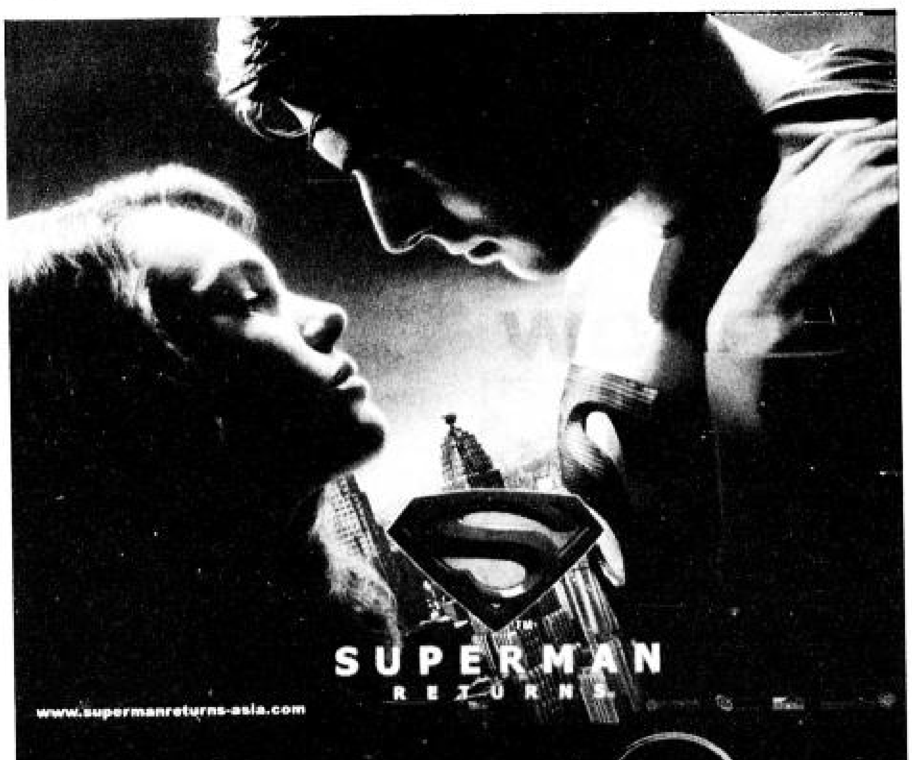

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GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 12:45 PM, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
Cinema 2 - 10:30 AM, 1:45 PM, 5:00, 8:15
Cinema 3* - 1:15 PM, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00
Cinema 6** - 12:15 PM, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 7 - 11:45 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:15, 9;30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00
Cinema 2* - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 11:20
Cinema 3** - 12:00 NN, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
Cinema 4** - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Cinema 5** - 11:30 AM, 2:45 PM

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 12:40 PM, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55 PM, 6:05, 9:15
Cinema 4 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
Cinema 5 - 11:15 AM, 2:25 PM, 5:35, 8:45

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Cinema 2 - 12:15 PM, 3:00, 6:05, 9:30

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) LAKE HOUSE
2 (DOLBY) SCARY MOVIE-4
3 (DOLBY) CARS / GARFIELD - 2
4 (DOLBY) THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
PREVIEW
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'Pick me, choose me'

'Pinoy Dream Academy' and 'Pinoy Big Brother Season Two' wind down Metro Manila auditions

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE ENTERTAINMENT PLAZA on the third floor, Building B, of SM Supercenter Sucat in Parañaque was buzzing with excitement on Saturday as two ABS-CBN reality shows—"Pinoy Dream Academy" and "Pinoy Big Brother Season Two"—held their penultimate auditions in Metro Manila.

The following day, the last Manila tryout was held in SM Southmall Las Piñas.

A week ago, auditions in SM North Edsa and SM City Manila attracted thousands of hopefuls.

North Edsa alone posted 3,500 aspirants, according to a partial estimate provided by the network's Corporate Communications department. In SM Manila, nearly 4,400 auditioned, according to executive producer Mercee Tolentino.

Earlier this month, auditions were also mounted in Dagupan, Baguio, Davao, Legazpi, Bacolod and Iloilo.

Cebu hosts a tryout today.

After Cebu, auditions will move to: Sydney, Australia; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Milan, Italy; Tokyo, Japan; and San Francisco, United States. This is under the auspices of the network's The Filipino Channel (TFC).

"PDA" starts airing in August 2006; "PBB 2," in March 2007.

The judges were "PBB" director Lauren Dyogi and chief story editors Jillmer Dy and Richard Reynante. Also present at the auditions were production manager Maru Benitez, executive producers Tolentino, Mavic Oducayen and Leon Roldan.

The "PBB" and "PDA" wannabes brimmed with enthusiasm.

Their eyes said: "Pick me! Pick Me!" Their smiles flashed: "Choose me! Choose Me!"

A sense of desperation was in the air.

The "PBB" hopefuls donned orange stickers marked with their identification numbers; "PDA" contenders, fuchsia stickers.

The majority brandished plastic folders and brown envelopes—as though they were applying for jobs.

Some donned their Sunday best; others stubbornly wore *pambahay* (houseclothes like *sando* and *daster*).

A 20-year-old woman came in a police uniform. She told INQUIRER Entertainment that she was a criminology graduate. But since she was too young to join the Philippine National Police, she had opted for a different kind of adventure on "PBB."

By the end of INQUIRER's visit, her fate was still uncertain.

Wearing a uniform, however, didn't work for two young men. A merchant marine and an army man were eliminated early in the game.

Another aspirant mercifully didn't wear a habit, but she told the judges that she had left the "convent" for "PBB." She was eliminated in the second round.

As an illustration that "PBB" contestants were a motley crew, one contestant who was "differently abled" arrived in a wheelchair. He got through to the next round.

A hefty female contestant said she was a graduate of the ABS-CBN cooking show "Makuha Ka sa Tikim." She didn't make it.

Compared to "PBB," "PDA" contests were not as diverse.

Except for a gay man sporting an Afro hairdo, most followed the "Sarah Geronimo-Erik Santos" template—not only in terms of wardrobe, but in repertoire.

A "PDA" contestant from Ilocos Sur, who traveled to Baguio for the audition, complained that he didn't even get to sing and was eliminated in the first level.

Executive producer Tolentino explained that, in the first round, aspirants were judged based on looks alone. "If they have the 'X factor,' they'll move to the next round and they'll be asked to sing for 30 seconds. In the subsequent round, they'll be asked to dance. We are looking for a total performer."

While "PDA" aspirants had at least the chance to show off their singing talent, "PBB" hopefuls had been required to accomplish all sorts of tasks that was later described as "silly" by one contender. (Surprisingly, she made it.)

Girls were asked to dance on their knees.

Boys were told to retrieve a mineral water bottle from the judges' table, without leaving the stage. They used belts, hankies, shoes and other articles of clothing to lasso the bottle from the table.

Such exercises, the aspirants said, taught them "teamwork, initiative and persistence."

Speaking of determination, at least one girl who had been rejected earlier came back wearing a different outfit in an attempt to confuse the judges.

Tolentino confirmed that "serial auditioning" was a common practice. "Some move from one venue to another. But some try their luck more than once in the same venue. Even if we stamp their wrists (to show that they've already been rejected), they simply wash the ink away."

Auditions usually follow mall hours, said Tolentino—meaning, it starts at 10 a.m. and extends beyond 10 p.m.

By the end of the long day, contenders are usually narrowed down to 20 per venue, but that would still be trimmed down through "in-depth interviews and additional tasks and tryouts," said Tolentino.

One male "PBB" aspirant was a repeater from two other reality shows.

INQUIRER first spotted this persistent contender in ABC 5's "Philippine Idol" audition at the Philippine International Convention Center.

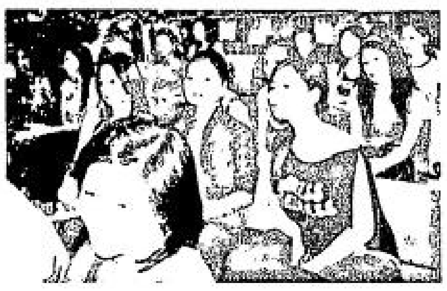
At the PICC, he informed "RP Idol" producers that he had also tried out for "American Idol" in the US.

At the "PBB" eliminations, he told the judges that he had also served in the Iraq war.

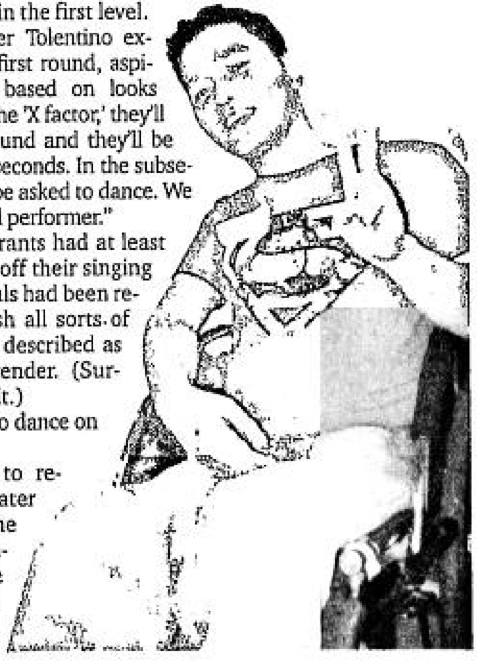
In spite of his experience in different kinds of battlefields, he still failed to impress "PBB" judges.

Now, that's reality.

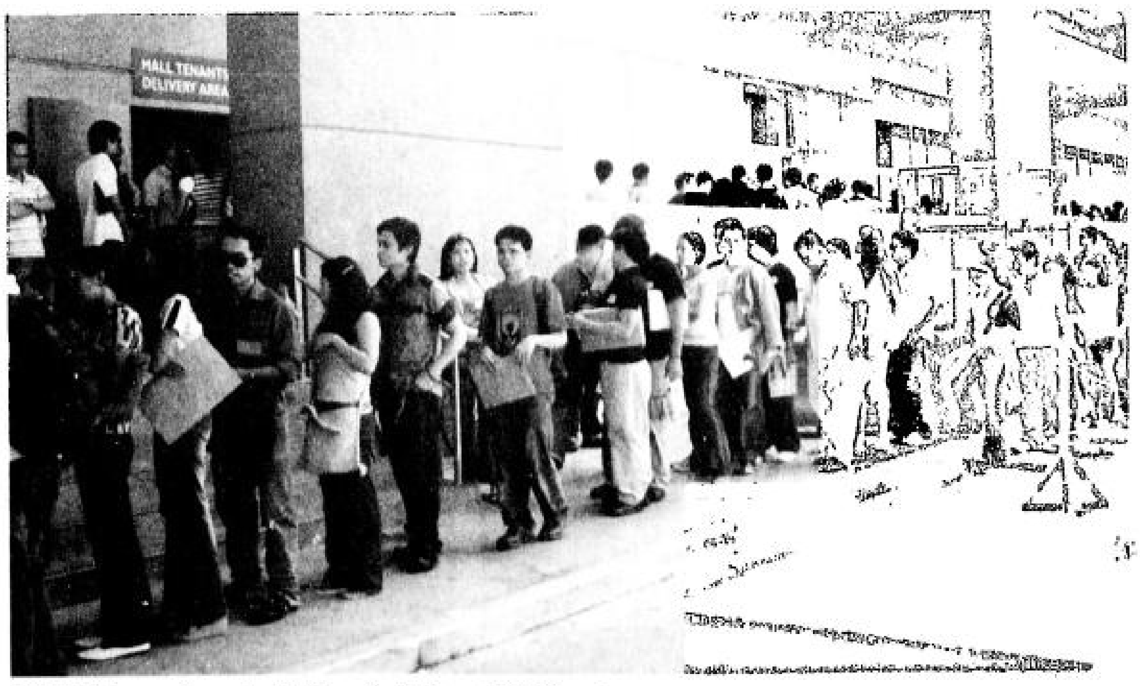
MISSION Impossible: Difficult tasks are part of the "PBB" tryouts. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI



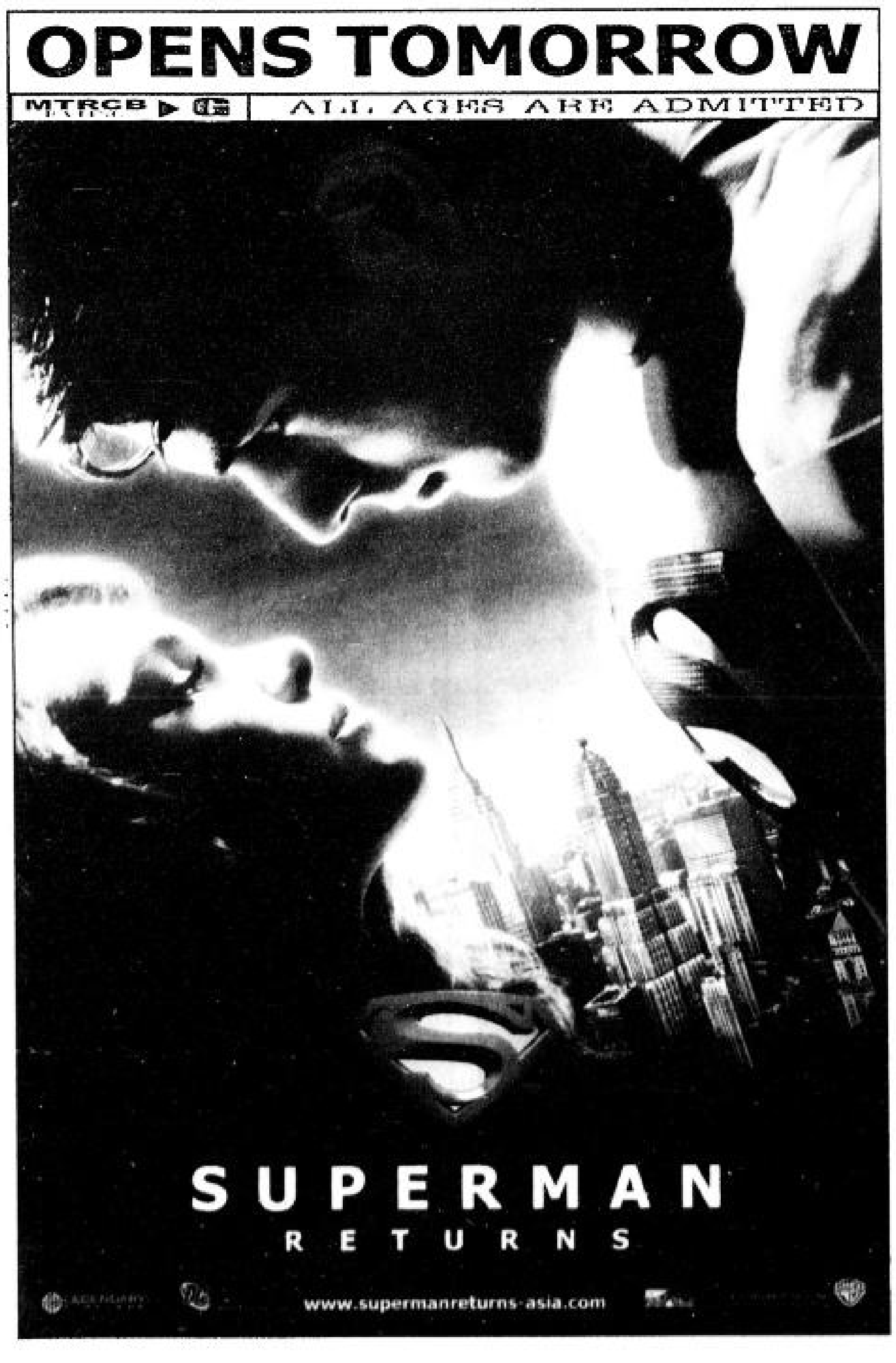
BOYS dance while pinching each other's ears.



DIFFERENTLY-ABLED aspirant makes it to the next round.



WINDING queue from the third floor to the front of SM Sucat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2	LAKE HOUSE	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	GP
3	SCARY MOVIE 4	12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	R-13
4	CARS	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	GP

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THE LAKE HOUSE PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	THE NUN R13 1:25,3:30,5:35,7:40,9:45	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LAKE HOUSE
MTRCB GP
1.20, 3.30, 5.40, 7.50, 10.00

2 SCARY MOVIE 4
MTRCB R-13
1.20, 3.30, 5 40, 7 50, 10 00

3 CARS 12 50,5 25,10 00
MTRCB GP
GARFIELD 2 3:30,8:05
MTRCB GP

4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
MTRCB PG-13
12 20, 2 45, 5.10, 7.35, 10.00

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4	SCARY MOVIE	10:40 , 1:00 , 3:15 5:30 , 7:45 , 10:00	R13
5	THE LAKE HOUSE	10:45 , 1:00 , 3:15 5:30 , 7:45 , 10:00	GP

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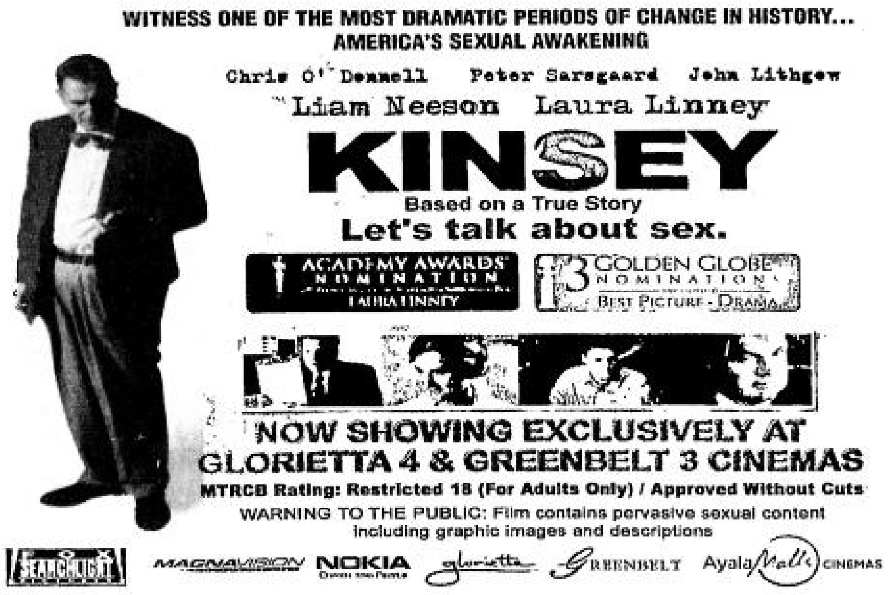

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Cinema 3* - 1:15 PM, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00
Cinema 6** - 12:15 PM, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 7 - 11:45 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:15, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00
Cinema 2* - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 11:20
Cinema 3** - 12:00 NN, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
Cinema 4** - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Cinema 5** - 11:30 AM, 2:45 PM

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Cinema 2 - 12:40 PM, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

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Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

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North Edsa alone posted 3,500 aspirants, according to a partial estimate provided by the network's Corporate Communications department. In SM Manila, nearly 4,400 auditioned, according to executive producer Mercee Tolentino.

Earlier this month, auditions were also mounted in Dagupan, Baguio, Davao, Legazpi, Bacolod and Iloilo.

Cebu hosts a tryout today.

After Cebu, auditions will move to: Sydney, Australia; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Milan, Italy; Tokyo, Japan; and San Francisco, United States. This is under the auspices of the network's The Filipino Channel (TFC).

"PDA" starts airing in August 2006; "PBB 2," in March 2007.

The judges were "PBB" director Lauren Dyogi and chief story editors Jillmer Dy and Richard Reynante. Also present at the auditions were production manager Maru Benitez, executive producers Tolentino, Mavic Oducayen and Leon Roldan.

The "PBB" and "PDA" wannabes brimmed with enthusiasm.

Their eyes said: "Pick me! Pick Me!" Their smiles flashed: "Choose me! Choose Me!"

A sense of desperation was in the air.

The "PBB" hopefuls donned orange stickers marked with their identification numbers; "PDA" contenders, fuchsia stickers.

The majority brandished plastic folders and brown envelopes—as though they were applying for jobs.

Some donned their Sunday best; others stubbornly wore *pambahay* (houseclothes like *sando* and *daster*).

MISSION Impossible: Difficult tasks are part of the "PBB" tryouts. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

A 20-year-old woman came in a police uniform. She told INQUIRER Entertainment that she was a criminology graduate. But since she was too young to join the Philippine National Police, she had opted for a different kind of adventure on "PBB."

By the end of INQUIRER's visit, her fate was still uncertain.

Wearing a uniform, however, didn't work for two young men. A merchant marine and an army man were eliminated early in the game.

Another aspirant mercifully didn't wear a habit, but she told the judges that she had left the "convent" for "PBB." She was eliminated in the second round.

As an illustration that "PBB" contestants were a motley crew, one contestant who was "differently abled" arrived in a wheelchair. He got through to the next round.

A hefty female contestant said she was a graduate of the ABS-CBN cooking show "Makuha Ka sa Tikim." She didn't make it.

Compared to "PBB," "PDA" contests were not as diverse.

Except for a gay man sporting an Afro hairdo, most followed the "Sarah Geronimo-Erik Santos" template—not only in terms of wardrobe, but in repertoire.

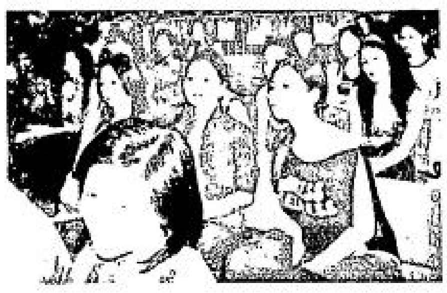
A "PDA" contestant from Ilocos Sur, who traveled to Baguio for the audition, complained that he didn't even get to sing and was eliminated in the first level.

Executive producer Tolentino explained that, in the first round, aspirants were judged based on looks alone. "If they have the 'X factor,' they'll move to the next round and they'll be asked to sing for 30 seconds. In the subsequent round, they'll be asked to dance. We are looking for a total performer."

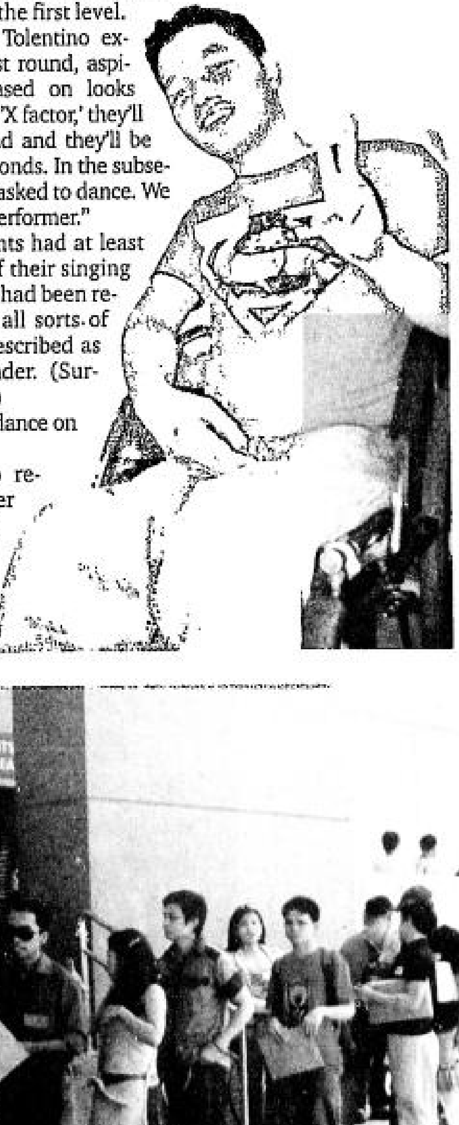
While "PDA" aspirants had at least the chance to show off their singing talent, "PBB" hopefuls had been required to accomplish all sorts of tasks that was later described as "silly" by one contender. (Surprisingly, she made it.)

Girls were asked to dance on their knees.

Boys were told to retrieve a mineral water bottle from the judges' table, without leaving the stage. They used belts, hankies, shoes and other articles of clothing to lasso the bottle from the table.



BOYS dance while pinching each other's ears.



DIFFERENTLY-ABLED aspirant makes it to the next round.

Such exercises, the aspirants said, taught them "teamwork, initiative and persistence."

Speaking of determination, at least one girl who had been rejected earlier came back wearing a different outfit in an attempt to confuse the judges.

Tolentino confirmed that "serial auditioning" was a common practice. "Some move from one venue to another. But some try their luck more than once in the same venue. Even if we stamp their wrists (to show that they've already been rejected), they simply wash the ink away."

Auditions usually follow mall hours, said Tolentino—meaning, it starts at 10 a.m. and extends beyond 10 p.m.

By the end of the long day, contenders are usually narrowed down to 20 per venue, but that would still be trimmed down through "in-depth interviews and additional tasks and tryouts," said Tolentino.

One male "PBB" aspirant was a repeater from two other reality shows.

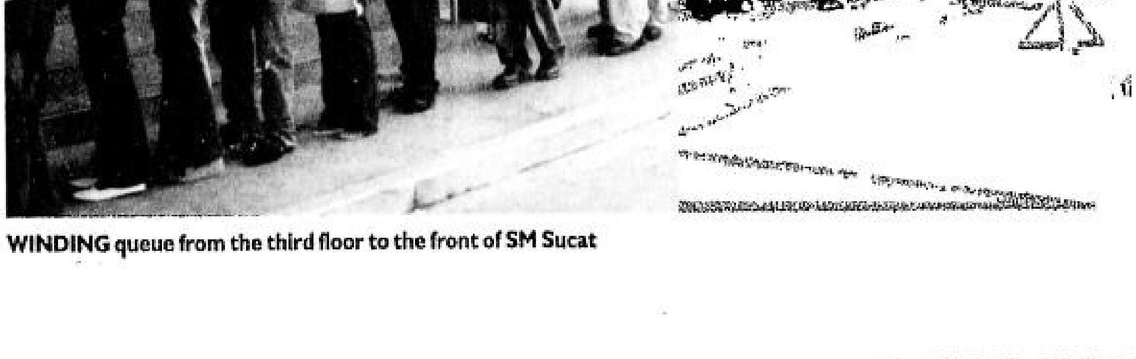
INQUIRER first spotted this persistent contender in ABC 5's "Philippine Idol" audition at the Philippine International Convention Center.

At the PICC, he informed "RP Idol" producers that he had also tried out for "American Idol" in the US.

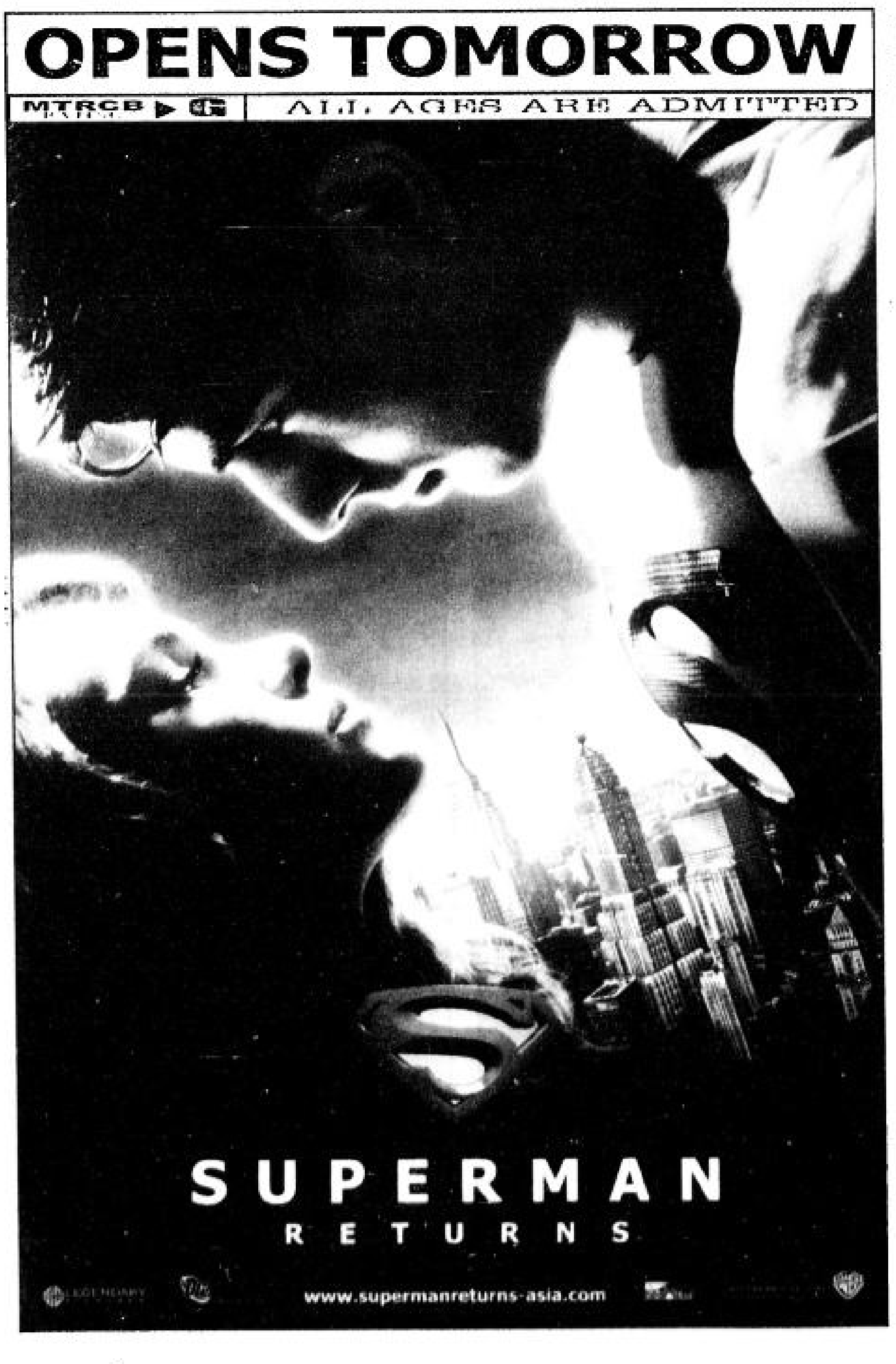
At the "PBB" eliminations, he told the judges that he had also served in the Iraq war.

In spite of his experience in different kinds of battlefields, he still failed to impress "PBB" judges.

Now, that's reality.



WINDING queue from the third floor to the front of SM Sucat



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T-bill rates increase, trail global trend

Appetite for gov't securities stays strong, says BTr

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES YESTERDAY rose across all maturities, with the 91-day bill increasing by 150 basis points to fetch 6.5 percent, as the domestic market was swayed by increasing interest rates abroad.

The 182- and 364-day bills jumped 156.1 and 201.8 basis points, respectively, compared with the rates of the previous week. The rate for the six-month bills stood at 7.295 percent, while that for the one-year debt instruments settled at 7.973 percent.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said interest rate levels have already adjusted upward both globally and domestically following the series of policy rate hikes implemented by the US Federal Reserve, and prospects of another rise in the Fed rate, which now stands at 5 percent.

Cruz said the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted bids for higher interest rates on T-bills because there still was strong appetite for government securities, as indicated by the high volume of bids.

The market should be respected, he added.

An increase in US interest rate makes debt instruments issued by risk-prone emerging economies like the Philippines less attractive. Investors therefore tend to seek higher returns to accommodate a higher risk premium.

Cruz said it was all right to borrow at higher costs so long as the interest rates reflect strong market appetite, as indicated by volume of bids.

Tenders for the 91-day bill reached P6.52 billion—more than six times higher than the government's planned borrowing of only P1 billion per T-bill maturity.

Also, bids for the 182- and 364-day bills amounted to P7.66 billion and 5.54 billion, respectively, reflecting high demand for the government securities.

The Treasury accepted P1.4 billion worth of bids for the 91-day, another P1.4 billion for the 182-day, and P1 billion for the 364-day bills. Cruz said the BTr decided to issue more

T-BILL/B2

Weakening peso prompts rise in water rates

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE APPRECIATING DOLLAR WILL SOON be taking its toll on customers of Manila Water Co. Inc. when they will be asked to pay an additional 15 centavos per cubic meter starting on July 10.

This means that a household consuming an average of 30 cubic meters per month will have to pay an additional P2.89 per month or 10 centavos per day.

According to MWCI, its average all-in tariff rate will rise from P19.74 to P19.93 per cubic meter.

The rate adjustment has been approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's-Regulatory Office.

The rate adjustment is contained in MWSS-RO Resolution No. 006-005-CA.

In a public notice, the water subsidiary of the Ayala Group said the tariff increase was due to the recent decline of the peso against the US dollar.

The tariff increase falls under the foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) component of MWCI's concession agreement with the MWSS.

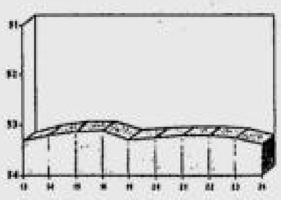
The FCDA allows the water concessionaire to recover losses from the peso's fall against the US dollar. It has been put in place to pay off MWCI's dollar-denominated loans, including concession fees to MWSS.

FCDA is computed quarterly depending on the value of the peso to the US dollar during the period. This is part of an agreement between the private water firm and the government-run MWSS.

According to the water concessionaire, the FCDA for the quarter has been increased by 15 centavos per cubic meter, from 9 centavos to a total of 24 centavos.

Manila Water supplies water and sewerage services to Manila's east zone, which is comprised of portions of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig Pateros and part of Rizal province.

CURRENCIES



JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2006

¥ 116.26 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2006

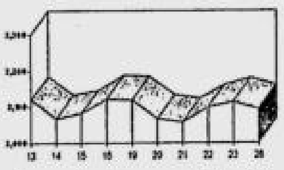
GOLD: **$585.50-586.00**

per ounce Hong Kong, June 26, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JUNE



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Impeachment adds to market worries

THE FRESH IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday further weighed down an already bearish market, still reeling from the recent weeks' sharp sell-off, where it was said to have lost as much as P500 billion in value.

IMPEACHMENT/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Fidelity buying more PLDT stocks

/B2

WB pushes for gov't action on sanitation

/B6

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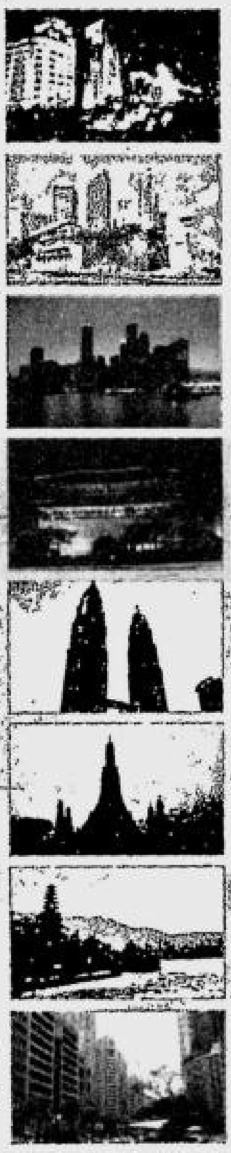

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Investment Objective	To achieve returns that closely track the iBoxx® ABF Philippines Index
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Min. Additional Investment/Withdrawal	P100,000.00
Minimum Holding Period	90 days
Distribution Network	Selected BPI Branches
Management Fee**	0.274% per annum
Trustee Fee	0.08% per annum
Early Redemption Fee	1.00% of the NAVPU
Trustee and Custodian Bank	The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Fund Manager	Bank of the Philippine Islands

* The features of the Fund contained herein may vary subject to proper disclosure as provided in the trust deed.
** The Fund is also subject to other operational expenses such as, but not limited to audit, index licensing and custody fees.

- Investors may invest or withdraw at the prevailing Net Asset Value per Unit valued at market price daily by submitting their orders before the dealing deadline of 12 nn. The actual amount of the investment or withdrawal will only be ascertained on the transaction date where the price of the Units is made available.
- Investors are entitled to assign in writing their holdings in the Fund subject to the minimum investment and withdrawal amounts applicable at the time of transfer.
- BPI Asset Management offers a wide array of UITFs. Each UITF has its own investment policy and objective to suit clients' investment requirements and risk preference. A copy of the Trust Deed/Plan Rules of each particular fund is available at the principal office of the Trustee and all the offices of the Fund Manager and Receiving Agents where the Fund is made available.
- Any connected person of the Fund Manager may, as principal, buy or sell investments in the Fund entered into on an arm's length basis and consistent with the standards of "best execution" as defined in the Trust Deed. Likewise, the Fund Manager may effect agency cross transactions (sale/purchase of investment effected for the Trust Client of the Fund Manager and/or its Connected Persons) in accordance with applicable law and regulations.
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Fidelity buying more PLDT stocks

Fund manager now holds 9.1 million of phone firm's shares

By Daxim L. Lucas

TWO UNITS OF FIDELITY MANAGEMENT Trust Co., one of the world's largest fund managers, have been accumulating shares of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) in recent weeks, reversing a massive sell-off of the phone firm's stocks that started in April.

According to company documents filed with the stock exchange, Fidelity International Ltd. and FMR Corp. now own more than 9.1 million PLDT shares representing 5.01 percent of the company's total outstanding capital stocks.

The report was prompted by Fidelity's acquisition of shares that broke the 5-percent threshold.

"We welcome the continued interest of Fidelity and the increase of their investment in [the company]," PLDT president Napoleon L. Nazareno said, reacting to the report. "They are one of our largest institutional investors."

In 2005, Fidelity held PLDT shares equivalent to 5.13 percent of the phone company's outstanding stocks, but the fund manager began dumping its shares in mid-April this year after the country's largest telecommunication group warned of a more difficult business environment ahead.

US-based Fidelity manages over $1.2 trillion worth of investments worldwide.

From April 17, 2006 onward, the fund sold over 1.8 million PLDT shares, adding pressure on the company's share price which was already reeling from an earlier Morgan Stanley report that predicted muted earnings growth for the firm.

The bulk of the sell-off was made in Fidelity's holdings of PLDT's American depositary receipts traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

The aggressive selling eroded Fidelity's holdings in the company to below the 5-percent mark.

By May 2006, however, relative calm had returned to investors after it became clear that the company was taking steps to address the expected plateau in its mobile phone business.

According to data provided by PLDT, Fidelity began accumulating PLDT shares both on the NYSE and on the Philippine Stock Exchange starting May 18, 2006.

Fidelity bought a total of 557,910 shares of PLDT from this period until mid-June, resulting in their holdings rising above the five-percent mark once more.

The fund manager's renewed interest in the company coincided with the statement of PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the stock was "undervalued."

In its declaration to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Fidelity said the purpose of its acquisition of PLDT shares was purely "for the purpose of simple portfolio investment."

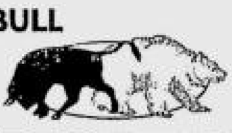
"[We], however, do not intend to acquire shares of the outstanding voting or equity securities of PLDT to take over control of the company," the fund manager assured.

It added that it would continue buying or selling PLDT shares depending on market conditions.

FED up with Bernanke?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan



ON FATHER'S DAY, I REMOVED MY GLASSES so that my wife could take a photograph of me with my beautiful daughter. Suddenly, she said, "You know, without your glasses, you are not bad-looking." Surprised, I replied, "Without my glasses, you are not bad-looking either." That did not go down too well.

In London, Lord of the Rings has been made into a musical. No singing, just Tolkien.

I went to Chicago Hope for my semi-annual check up. It is called that because you have to pay a check up front. During the ultrasound of my kidneys, I had to lie prostate for 30 minutes. During the examination, the technician suddenly asked me whether I had bought a memorial plot. "What's wrong?" I cried in alarm. "It's nothing," said the technician. "I am trying to supplement my income."

I took the results to the doctor and after studying them he asked me if I had life insurance. "Tell me the worst," I said, trembling from head to toe. "You are in fine shape," he said reassuringly. "But we now have to pay tax and VAT so I have to supplement my income."

On the way out, the cashier asked me if I took multivitamins. "Yes." I said, "I have to supplement my health."

I was disappointed that nobody showed any interest in my poems and limericks because I have a large assortment, which I think are very amusing. Apparently, Filipinos think otherwise.

Last week, the INQUIRER reported that the President had a bum stomach. That is strange because usually, these two parts of the body are on opposite sides. To distinguish them, they had to dye her rear.

APO is a very interesting company. It owns a hiking society, a mountain and the song rights to Apo ay Filipino.

***

It was a fairly quiet but interesting week. Asian stocks continued their downtrend as over the past five weeks, speculators withdrew $15.4 billion from emerging-markets, mainly by selling stocks. When the PHISIX opened on Wednesday 30 points down, it had dropped no less than 563 points since my perfect SELL signal seven weeks earlier.

My degree of risk factor was down to two and my gut feeling told me that the market had temporarily discounted everything short of nuclear war. As soon as the market began to recover, I sent a message to all subscribers telling them to BUY blue chips with a low risk factor. At the close, the index was down 10 and for those who understand candlesticks, a perfect hammer had been formed. This is a very bullish indicator when it appears at the bottom of a steep decline.

The next day, the PHISIX rose 40 points and on Friday another 16 points. This was particularly impressive because on Wednesday, Wall Street had a "dead cat bounce." This horrible American expression denotes a very short-term technical rally, in this case, only 1 day. But in spite of the Dow and the Nasdaq slipping lower again, our market defied the overall trend, together with China and Malaysia. However, it was down on Monday, following the Dow, so this might also be a "dead cat bounce."

The day to watch out for is June 30. First of all, it is quarter day when the fund managers prepare their quarterly balance sheets for submission to their directors. As they want to present the best performance possible, they tend to buy up the stocks, which they hold, so we have a worldwide phenomenon known as window dressing. This time around, they might not bother, as there is no way to disguise the huge falls that have taken place in the past 2 months.

Of far greater importance is what FED Chair BERNANKE will say when he raises rates on the 29th June, which is June 30 here, due to the time difference. His remarks and those of his blabbermouth colleagues are largely responsible for the confusion of investors. Some now believe that he will keep on raising rates until he pushes the economy into recession.

I do not believe this will happen because the economy is strong and flexible. Company earnings in the S & P 500 have risen by 12 percent, year on year, in each of the past 11 quarters. At worst, if he pushes interest too high, beyond 5.5 percent, growth will probably slow to 8 percent or 9 percent. This is still acceptable, and while it might not be sufficient to push the Dow to new highs, it is certainly not the stuff of which bear markets are made. I think he will balance the need to control inflation with the health of the economy.

Once he stops raising rates, perhaps after August, the dollar is likely to go into a slow, steady decline. The US government is not averse to this because it might help reduce its huge current-account deficit. Opec and other large holders of dollars have started to diversify by buying euros and the next item on the list might be gold.

I am not bearish about commodities, which follow the law of supply and demand. At the moment, in the case of base metals, supply comfortably exceeds demand. That is why, at the Philex meeting last Friday, company chair Walter Brown was upbeat about the company's prospects. He reiterated his forecast of hitting P2 billion in profit despite wild fluctuations in the price of copper and gold.

By next week, we will have digested Bernanke's remarks and, hopefully, have a better idea of where the US economy is heading. In the meantime, I expect turnover to be very low.

According to the chair of Pan Asia Securities Lending Association, the PSE plans to allow the introduction of stock lending in the fourth quarter. This would enable speculators to borrow and sell shares, betting that they can repurchase them more cheaply at a later date. The lender would receive a fee for this service and the borrower would have to guarantee to replace the shares. "There is a demand for stock borrowing and there is supply available. There will be an increase in liquidity and turnover. In Asia, $250 billion worth of securities are on loan."

The PSE has not confirmed this, but if it were true, it would bring us in line with other stock markets where short selling is allowed. It would increase volatility considerably and you would be able to see me in shorts.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 26, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	32.5	31.5	31.5	473,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	45.5	45.5	462,800
China Banking Corp.	865	865	865	865	4,000
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72	72	70.5	71	187,300
International Exch. Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	34,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31	872,500
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	50,000
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	7,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	14,400
Security Bank Corp.	41	41	41	41	15,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	2,100
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
Bankard Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.78	0.78	570,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	215	215	210	210	1,050
Ivantage Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	400,000
		INDUSTRIAL			
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42	42	11,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	141,400
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	15,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	21	21	18,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	1,016,000
Petron Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	1,510,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	60,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	26,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	28,800
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	87,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	18,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	130,900
San Miguel Corp. B	72	72	71.5	71.5	139,200
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.25	17.25	1,381,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,050,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	530,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	17,000,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	37,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	18,000,000
Ayala Corp.	342.5	345	340	342.5	116,740
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	111,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	300,000
A. Soriano Corp	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.76	1,720,000
APC Group Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	4,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.02	1.02	2,145,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,002,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	2,070,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	60,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	170,000
Keppel Holdings	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	140,000
SM Investments Corp.	212	213	211	211	42,350
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	9,814,800
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	211,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.32	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	6,850,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.26	7,574,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	631,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	17,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	148,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.4	5,563,000
		SERVICE			
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	2,500,000
Globe Telecom Inc	910	910	905	905	16,700
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1780	1780	1775	1775	11,900
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Ionics Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Philweb Corp	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	20,300,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	397,500
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	159,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
		EDUCATION			
IPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	2	1.94	1.94	161,000
Paxys Inc	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	71,000
		MINING			
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8.2	7.8	7.9	3,548,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	4,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	287,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.9	5,039,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.9	4	3.85	3.85	6,717,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	10,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	250,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	580,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	239,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	112,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	790,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.16	1.24	64,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18.5	18.5	17.5	18	601,200

Bank raised ₱8B for BIR in '05

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY (Metrobank), the country's largest bank in resources, raised P8.2 billion in tax collections for the Bureau of Internal Revenue through its online tax payment facility in 2005.

The bank announced in a press statement yesterday that the tax payments collected through web-based Taxdirect more than doubled compared to the yields in 2004.

Taxdirect allows Metrobank's corporate clients to file income tax returns as well as pay for other taxes via the Internet using the BIR's Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS).

More than 2,000 corporate clients are enrolled in Metrobank's Taxdirect service, with online transactions reaching close to 60,000 in 2005.

Transactions include payment of monthly remittance of income taxes withheld on compensation, monthly and quarterly value-added tax returns, and annual income tax returns.

Metrobank senior vice president and head of corporate planning Bernardito M. Lapuz said: "With the government's drive to improve tax collections, it needs all the help it can get and Metrobank was one of the first banks to respond to the government's call for support."

He said more corporations were now inclined to make use of online tax payment systems through agent banks like Metrobank.

Lapuz said Taxdirect was efficient, convenient to use and accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week, ensuring continuous service for users.

Metrobank is one of the pioneer banks to forge partnerships with various government agencies to facilitate payment collections.

Other agencies that have tapped Metrobank for this purpose are the Social Security System, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., Pag-IBIG Housing, Bureau of Customs, Metro Manila Development Authority, and the National Statistics Office.

Doris C. Dumlao

T-bill rates increase

From page B1

three- and six-month bills than programmed to partly cover high market demand.

"We just provided [investors'] requirements," Cruz said in a press briefing after the auctions yesterday. "It is good to service investor needs."

He said issuing more T-bills than what was programmed in yesterday's auction would not bloat the government's borrowings, noting that the BTr canceled several auctions scheduled last May and early June.

Cruz attributed the huge volume of bids partly to the P37 billion worth of retail Treasury bonds (RTBs) that will mature by the end of the month, Maturing RTBs are expected to increase liquidity in the market. Some investors may use part of the proceeds from maturing government securities to reinvest in the virtually risk-free debt instruments.

But the Treasurer said the government had no intention of issuing another set of RTBs to accommodate the expected increase in market liquidity. The government's cash position remains healthy and fiscal authorities are not obliged to undertake more borrowings.

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.799361	1.000000	53.2830
Japan	Yen	0.006858	0.008579	0.4571
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453078	1.817800	96.8578
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102903	0.128732	6.8592
Switzerland	Franc	0.640205	0.800897	42.6742
Canada	Dollar	0.712125	0.890869	47.4682
Singapore	Dollar	0.500006	0.625508	33.3289
Australia	Dollar	0.584584	0.731315	38.9667
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.120544	2.652801	141.3492
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213134	0.266631	14.2069
Brunei	Dollar	0.498448	0.623558	33.2250
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000106	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020806	0.026028	1.3868
UAE	Dirham	0.217643	0.272272	14.5075
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.251000	66.6570
Argentina	Peso	0.259532	0.324675	17.2997
Brazil	Real	0.356301	0.445732	23.7499
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.167799	8.9408
India	Rupee	0.017373	0.021734	1.1581
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217217	0.271739	14.4791
Mexico	New Peso	0.070034	0.087612	4.6682
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483933	0.605400	32.2575
Norway	Kroner	0.126261	0.157953	8.4162
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013277	0.016609	0.8850
South Africa	Rand	0.107924	0.135013	7.1939
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.001046	0.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.108385	0.135590	7.2246
Syria	Pound	0.015399	0.019264	1.0264
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024445	0.030581	1.6294
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000373	0.000466	0.0248

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Impeachment adds to market worries

From page B1

The composite index of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) dropped close to one percent or 20.77 points to close at 2,092.40. Yesterday's performance snapped a nascent two-day recovery of the market.

Share prices yesterday closed 0.98 percent lower. The broader all-shares index fell 12.32 points to 1,325.31. Losers led gainers 41 to 16, with 41 stocks unchanged.

Only P526.9 million changed hands for the entire trading session.

Stock market watchers conceded that the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo—the second in as many years—does not pose an immediate threat to the stock and other financial markets. Nonetheless, they expressed worries that it could get out of hand.

"If the government loses focus on its economic agenda, then that's the time we will really get affected," First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo said in a phone interview.

So far, he said, the impeachment complaint has already been "discounted"—market jargon for investors having factored in the expectations in the price of their investments.

Also, foreign and local investors remain caution as they waited for the decision of US and local monetary authorities whether interest rates would be hiked further, which usually sends stock prices lower.

Daxim L. Lucas, AFP

Mandatory SSS membership of OFWs proposed

Pension fund in talks with labor department, POEA

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM HAS asked the government to require overseas Filipino workers to enlist with the pension fund as members prior to their departure.

In a statement, SSS officer-in-charge Horacio Templo yesterday said the SSS had asked the Department of Labor and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to make SSS membership mandatory for OFWs.

"We want our OFWs to be included in the SSS' mantle of social security protection," said Templo.

There are about 8 million Filipinos working in more than 190 countries around the world. However, only 515,762 OFWs are SSS members. About 16,000 are enrolled in the SSS Flexi-fund program, a tax-exempt savings and pension plan, which is on top of the regular social security program offered by the SSS.

The total number of OFWs represents 20 percent of the country's productive labor force. At least 4.8 million are migrant workers who have specific contracts and have no proper documentation.

Templo said the SSS was working on forging bilateral social security agreements with more countries that employ a substantial number of Filipino workers. At present the SSS has this agreement with Austria, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Spain, France, Canada and Quebec, Switzerland, Belgium and South Korea.

"We are also studying the possibility of establishing more foreign branch offices to augment the 14 existing offices," Templo said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects OFW remittances to grow by 10 percent this year despite the slowdown seen last April.

Based on the BSP's survey of households in Metro Manila, only about 11 percent of OFW families tried to invest in stocks or any private business, while 39 percent keep their savings in banks and other depository institutions.

About 10 percent of households based in Metro Manila have at least one OFW in the family. Out of these, 91.3 percent received remittances over the last 12 months. The survey also showed that 95.5 percent or nearly all of the households used part of the remittances to buy food and pay for other domestic needs.

Forget my nuts

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE HOT TOPIC IN THE CAPITAL markets last week was, of course, the tax evasion scandal involving the insurance companies of Alfonso Yuchengco.

Reports said that the Yuchengco insurance group, which has under its wings such industry giants as life insurance Great Pacific and non-life group Malayan, forgot to remit to the BIR its documentary stamp tax of about P100 million.

That, even for a multi-billionaire taipan like Yuchengco, is definitely a lot of money. More so down here in my *barangay!* The unpaid tax can build, for instance, at least 200 more classrooms for our children.

But it turned out that, based on the announcement of former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, who is now an executive of the Yuchengco group of companies, the Yuchengco group already settled the tax obligation.

In comparison, nobody in another huge insurance group could officially come out to claim that the group already settled its old (okay—"ANCIENT") obligation with the BIR, amounting to at least P800 million.

And to think, the BIR announced the P800-million tax case way back in 1998, or some eight long years ago. From what I gathered from BIR insiders, the insurance group has yet to pay for the obligation. That is, AS OF YESTERDAY!

The question is what's Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag doing about the case? Boss, the interest cost of P800 million alone can come up to at least P50 million a year--easily. And the BIR seems to have buried the case? Tsk, tsk, tsk.

What really gets some people in business is, the insurance group also does not pay for the multi-million peso claims for the helicopter of an influential family, or the claims of a shipping tycoon now running on its second decade.

No wonder then, our insurance playboy can afford to live it up, flying by helicopter to a weekend hideaway in a posh subdivision somewhere in Batangas, reportedly accompanied by a lady lawyer.

Not to mention his spending a few days in Hong Kong, also with a woman companion.

***

Another former Cabinet member, former Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucho, landed in the news recently, when he got a seat in the board of the controversial Equitable PCI Bank as a so-called independent director.

Garrucho also works as a top executive of the Lopez group. You know—business in power generation, power distribution, water distribution, telecommunications, television network, tollways, etc.

And word has it that the Lopez group owes EPCIB really bigtime. My sources said the bank had exposure in the Lopez group of at least P6 billion. Whether the bank has anything tied down in the Lopez group's troubled companies like Bayantel and the Maynilad Water, only the credit committee of EPCIB can tell.

Oops—that's the committee manned exclusively by people handpicked by Tessie Sy, daughter of mall operator Henry Sy, founder of the SM group, which in turn is trying to take over EPCIB for a song, at the expense of our pension funds--the SSS and GSIS.

In other countries, EPCIB and Garrucho by now would already be facing sanctions from their equivalent of our beloved Bangko Sentral or even from the SEC.

***

But here is the cherry on the top of the exciting story on the EPCIB takeover bid of Tessie Sy.

Last week, the Lopez group announced its claim to ownership of the EPCIB shares of Trans Middle East (TME), which are equivalent to about 8 percent of the company.

But as everybody knows, TME serves as the thorn on the takeover side of Tessie Sy, so much so that she and her highly paid lawyers (including the FIRM) plotted to oust the TME representatives to the EPCIB board, a young lawyer named Martin Romualdez.

And so the Lopez group came out in full force last week, making the claim on the cable news channel called ANC which, by the way, is controlled by the Lopez group through ABS-CBN, the country's second leading network.

Perhaps the claim of the Lopez group did not sound funny to the family patriarchs. Manolo (in charge of Meralco) and Oscar (incharge of First Holdings). But it did sound mysterious to the ANC news anchors.

A sharp ANC reporter, for instance, even asked the owners of the network , well, how come they are laying down their claim only now—meaning, after 20 years since the family came back from exile in the United States, or as soon as martial rule ended in 1986.

Moreover, the newsman asked whether or not the Lopez family's newfound claim had anything to do with the appointment of Garrucho as—what do they call it again—"independent director" of the bank

Frankly, I had the impression that the reporter meant rhetoric questions.

***

We have to remember that the Lopez group used to be major stockholders of EPCIB, when it was still PCIB before its Palace-aided merger with the Go family's Equitable Bank, with the use of our pension money from the SSS and the GSIS.

Together with taipan John Gokongwei Jr., the Lopez group won in the bidding for the PCIB shares that were foreclosed by the DBP during the time of Tita Cory.

By the way, the Aquino administration gifted the Lopez family their pre-martial law rule businesses—including ABS-CBN, Meralco and First Holdings—with one stroke of the pen, without questions asked, such as whether or not the family actually already got paid for those businesses or they even bothered to settle loan obligations and such.

Anyway, the point is, the Lopez group had all of the past 20 years to claim the EPCIB shares of TME. And the fact they forgot to do it, can really drive you nuts.

Let me see if I get this right—you mean, in all those 20 years, while the Lopez group wasted no time to regain control of businesses after businesses, they nonetheless forgot that they owned TME shares in EPCIB too, even if in 10 of those 20 years, the group even controlled the bank as majority owners, and yet they suddenly remember it now, while TME is battling Tessie Sy's takeover scheme that is bad for SSS and GSIS members like you and me—is that it?

Complaint filed vs Globe

By Daxim L. Lucas

ALLIED BANK CORP. HAS COMplained that 3G signals from the network of Globe Telecom Inc. have been interfering with its microwave transmission links.

"[Allied Bank's] tests and actual use of its radio equipment show that interference of Globe's 3G signals with its on radio signals is indeed apparent and prevents the clear transmission of sounds between its radio equipment units," the bank said in a letter to National Telecommunications Commission.

According to NTC, however, Allied Bank's facilities were using a frequency range that has since been allocated to Globe Telecom for its 3G network.

The regulator said it would assign a new frequency for Allied Bank's microwave transmission to make way for Globe's own use of the disputed frequency range.

The dispute was complicated, however, by a letter from Globe Telecom informing Allied Bank that tests performed by the mobile phone firm had found no such problems as the bank had complained about.

"We are pleased to inform you that after conducting a careful study on the 12 hops of Allied Bank vis-à-vis Globe Telecom's 3G frequencies, [our] network does not interfere with [your] microwave links," Globe legal counsel Gilbert A. Escoto said in a letter to the bank's management.

The bank is now asking that NTC mediate in the dispute, adding that it cannot rely solely on the word of Globe Telecom that its 3G signals don't interfere with the bank's communications facilities.

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REMEMBERING THE MAN

on his 22nd Death Anniversary

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

(August 23, 1910 – June 27, 1984)

Philanthropist. Industrialist.
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino.

Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.

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Menzi Graduates 2006

Bachelor's Degree

Isidro Z. Sermona	BS Accountancy	Binalbagan Catholic College
Peregrin L. Horlina	BS Agriculture	Cagayan State University
Reynier F. Aban	BS Agriculture	Central Mindanao University
Jedhan U. Galula	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Central Mindanao University
Rowin C. Roluna	BS Civil Engineering	Central Mindanao University
Henzi Chester M. Palomares	BS Mechanical Engineering	De La Salle University
Christopher C. Angeles	BS Business Administration	DLSU - College of Saint Benilde
Paul Anthony R. Velasco	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Pampanga Agricultural College
Jerwin L. Jacoba	BS Nursing	Sacred Heart College - Lucena
Hensen Bob R. Aguinalde	BS Nursing	Saint Louie University - Baguio
Lawrence Mari C. Santella	BS Accountancy	San Beda College
Pheltheray S. Mayol	BS Information Technology	University of Cebu
Johnrey S. Restor	BS Information Technology	University of Cebu
Ferdinand T. Espeleta	Bachelor of Fine Arts	University of the Philippines – Diliman
Michael B. Fajardo	Bachelor of Fine Arts	University of the Philippines – Diliman
Vincent C. Rosita	BS Industrial Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
Armond Vincent S. Silva	BS Nursing	Western Mindanao State University

Technological

Michael G. Edjec – **With Distinction**	Digital Logic Technician	College of Technological Sciences – Cebu
Alchie P. Ursal – **With Distinction**	Digital Electronic Technician	College of Technological Sciences – Cebu
Raymonnel J. Dolatre	Electrical Technology	College of Technological Sciences – Cebu
Ronald I. Espartero	Computer Data Processing	Binalbagan Catholic College
Antonio C. Tizo, Jr.	Computer Data Processing	Binalbagan Catholic College
John Louis A. Carolino	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Alexander Caesar C. Garcia	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Stephen T. Guad	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Emil S. Baltazar	Fitter Machinist	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Jumer P. España	Fitter Machinist	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Leo Bongo	Automotive Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Arnold Cuming	Automotive Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Jeffrey Fabros	Automotive Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Judy Macaldo	Mechanical Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Adrian Suetos	Welding Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati

Successful Board Examinees

Dennis T. Baclor	Certified Public Accountant	Binalbagan Catholic College
Henzi Chester M. Palomares	Electronics and Communications Engineer	De La Salle University
Mark Anthony P. Tampus	Civil Engineer	Central Mindanao University

The Menzi family requests friends and pious readers to remember him in their prayer.

Our Beloved

VIRGINIA GALANG NARCISO

Has joined her husband, Isaias
and son, Rodolfo Sr.
on June 25, 2006 at the age of 90
and now lies in state at her residence,
828 F. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite.

Her loving daughter, Encarnacion N. Raralio; her grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal happiness.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 28, at the Imus Cemetery after the Holy Mass at the Imus Cathedral at 9:00 a.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. JOSE G. CRISOSTOMO

of Imus, Cavite

who passed away in the grace of our Lord
on June 20, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our moments of bereavement.

Our Beloved Daddy

Architect ORLANDO L. QUIMPO

Husband, Father, Lolo and Friend

was called home by the Lord
on June 24, 2006 at the age of 72.

He will be missed by his wife **Cynthia**; children **Joy & Bong, Candy & Richard, Randy & Nina, Mia, André & April**, and **Armand & Candice**; grandchildren **Misha, Coco, Nicholas, Nicole, Camille, Jack, Mia, Zoë, Matthew, Hannie & Olan**; and great-grandchildren **Frannie, Daniel & Mikelle**.

His remains lie in state at Chapel M, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

There will be an 8:00 p.m. Memorial Service today, June 27, 2006.

Cremation will follow at Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City at 9:00 p.m.

"Come to Me; all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

It seems that you've left too soon
Leaving friends & family in gloom
Before you left, you told us to take courage.
Though it's hard that you left us behind
Those empowering words we'll keep in mind
We'll try not to grieve, try not to cry
Because we know you didn't really die
It's not the end, it's not goodbye
It's 'til we meet another time.

- Eya, Alren and Yna -

Our Beloved

Atty. Evelyn C. Balgos-Guballa

January 20, 1965 - June 21, 2006

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 21, 2006 at the age of 41.

Her bereaved husband **Atty. Arnel S. Guballa**; children **Althea, Alren, Alyanna**; parents **Ernesto & Perla Balgos**; relatives & friends request prayers of comfort for the bereaved family.

Her body lies in Felicidad Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Service will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

"I will bless you and make your name great,
and you shall be a blessing."

ANTONIO ANGELES SANTOS

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 24, 2006
at the age of 92 years.

His loving wife ***CORING***; children ***ROD** & **JESSIL**, **ROLLY** & **OWING**, **RONNIE** & **TESS**, **OWIE** & **ROGER***; grandchildren ***AIKA**, **JASMIN**, **RYAN**, **IDI**, **AYEE**, **NINO*** and ***BIANCA***, relatives and friends join in prayers for his eternal repose in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (IHMP), Mayumi corner Mahinhin Sts., beside Claret School, UP Village, Diliman, Q.C.

Interment will be on June 29, 2006 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang-Sora, Q.C., after the 9 a.m. Mass at the IHMP Church.

Jose Luis "Joey" Yturri y Ocampo

Peacefully joined His Creator on June 26, 2006
at the age of 67.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Josefina "Fini"**, his children **Tonichi, Mari, Mon, Maribel**; daughter-in-law **Rowena** and granddaughter **Christiana Marie**; and relatives who request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1, Magallanes Church, Makati City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:11

**No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him**

JULIAN (SONNY) S. SEGOVIA

July 16, 1940 - June 26, 2006

Has joined his loving and merciful God

CHUCHI
His loving wife

BOOIE, IAN, MARTIN, and **JM**
his sons

MANANG CELY

his parents-in-law, brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, his nephews, nieces and friends request the pious readers to pray for that God will give him his rightful inheritance to a new life of eternal peace.

His mortal remains lie at the Christ the King Parish Memorial Chapel beginning 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2006.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 29, 2006 at the Christ the King Parish Columbian immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

He requested that instead of flowers a donation be made to
"THE MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION -
SONNY SEGOVIA FUND"

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." – John 11:25-26

NIEVES JOVEN – BUNUAN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 26, 2006

She is survived by her nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives who request the pious reader to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapels, South Superhighway, Makati City.

AURORA POBLETE SUSTENTO

of Pitogo, Quezon

Peacefully joined her Creator and her sons, Joel & Renato on June 3, 2006 at 9:49 P.M. in Van Nuys, Ca., at the age of 85.

Her loving husband, **Dr. Jorge H. Sustento** and children **Evelyn, June, Jorge Jr., Rafael, Romeo, Juliet** and **Charito** request the pious readers to pray for eternal rest and everlasting life.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel I, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Children Evelyn, Juliet, June and Raffy flew in from abroad to join the family.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

NFA's rice marketing strategy reduces inflation rates

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY EXPECTS the rice inflation rate this month until December to remain below the five percent level and help moderate the country's over-all inflation rate until the year ends.

NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said that in spite of the recent successive oil price increases, the rate of rice inflation posted a downward trend during the last eight months. From a high of 8.3% in October 2005, it went down to 4.1% in May this year.

Managing the rice price is expected to moderate the total consumer price index/inflation rate, Tan cited.

Among the factors that help manage rice inflation is NFA's active market presence especially in rice distribution, he added.

According to him, the NFA is able to stabilize the price of rice and keep it at an affordable level by maintaining sufficient inventory for food security, having stocks ready for distribution and ensuring the timely infusion of rice in the market to preempt any rice price spiral.

Rice has a high share in the consumer and food basket at 9.3 and 18.7% each, respectively. Tan stressed that when the price of rice goes up, it triggers high inflation.

Related to this, Tan said the NFA expects to exceed its targeted rice distribution volume for the second quarter as demand for government rice continues to remain high.

He reported that there has been a marked increase in demand for NFA rice in the last five months. This is expected to further increase in the coming months especially during the start of the lean period in July.

Tan assured, however, that the NFA has already positioned its inventory to facilitate distribution among the regions and provinces prone to isolation especially during the rainy months.

On a monthly basis, from January until May, Tan noted that actual NFA rice distribution had reached or even surpassed 100% of the target.

Among the factors for the high demand for NFA rice is the upward trend in palay ex-farm price. "The price of palay remained high even during the summer harvest, and therefore, the price of commercial rice also remained relatively high," said Tan.

The consumers, according to him, look for quality rice that is within their budget, so they buy NFA rice which is priced at P18 per kilogram for the well-milled variety. This is lower by P3-P5 per kg than the regular and well-milled commercial rice in the market.

Unlike commercial rice price which fluctuates depending on the source of supply and the corresponding transport cost, NFA rice is uniformly priced nationwide.

Tan said the NFA is tapping the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) rice outlets, rolling stores, Tindahan Natin and the agency's accredited and licensed rice retailers as conduits in NFA rice distribution.

For more information on NFA's rice distribution, the public may send their inquiries Text NFA at 0917-6210927.

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For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** PNOC-EDC at 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on July 27, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC - EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – June 27, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 / 1320

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The Approved Budget is **P3,000,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC NNGP Logistics Section (c/o Mila B. Arana) starting **June 21, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred **(P300.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **June 28, 2006, 2:00 PM** at the Conference Room, PNOC-EDC NNGP, Brgy. Mailum, Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Logistics Section, Mailum Base Camp, Barangay Mailum, Bago City not later than **2:00 PM of July 13, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 20 & 27, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 ' 1320

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Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC NNGP Logistics Section (c/o Mila B. Arana) starting **June 21, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00).

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Palawan comes closer to the city, sets up one-stop shop in Makati

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

THE TRAUMA caused by the infamous kidnapping incident in one of its resorts in 2001 is definitely gone and Palawan has bounced back to life.

Tourism and real estate—two of its main industries—are booming again.

Now shifting its campaign to win tourists and investors to high gear, Palawan has moved closer to its markets through the establishment of a one-stop business center in the heart of Makati City.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes said Palawan Center, which is scheduled to open on June 28, was the first of its kind in the country.

The center, he said, would not only showcase everything the island has to offer, but also serve as a venue for Palawan-based enterprises to do business with their partners and clients in Metro Manila.

Full-service center

The 370-square-meter Palawan Center on Arnaiz Avenue in Bgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City houses an exhibit area for Palawan products and services, private offices, conference and meeting rooms, Internet cafe and a restaurant serving mainly Palaweño dishes.

It offers administrative support—a dedicated receptionist to take calls, messages and mails of the center stakeholders; executive secretary services-dictation, letter preparation, scheduling, filing and communication assistance; accounting and legal services; design and production support and event organization services.

The center will also lease out private offices and pigeon holes, with carrier forwarding services, which will enable Palawan-based businesses to establish their presence in Metro Manila at lesser cost.

Palawan brand

The center was established by Destination & Development Inc., a private company whose majority owner-British expatriate James Simson - was one of those who fell in love with Palawan and, upon the prodding of the governor, had taken the initiative to help Palawan take another step forward.

The center now has 10 exhibitors consisting mainly of major enterprises and leading resorts in Palawan.

These include Jewelmer International Corp., one of the country's leading distributors of South Sea pearls; Sea Air, and several resorts that include El Nido resorts, Club Paradise, Club Noah, El Rio, Flower Island and Dos Palmas.

Each of the exhibitors will have its own display panel and phone hotline. Calls received by the center are directed to the exhibitors' areas enabling their representatives to immediately entertain callers and address inquiries.

The challenge, according to Destination & Development vice president Jeanny Espanola., is to unite all Palawan stakeholders in "selling" the island, thereby firmly establishing the Palawan brand.

The center does not only provide Palawan stakeholders the venue to conduct business and the address, it also aims to bring Palawan to different countries and represent the island in local and international events.

"In international exhibitions, we will have one big Palawan exhibition area where all of these business operators will be represented instead of having one booth per company," said Espanola.

Espanola said the center was lining up year-long activities to lure prospective markets to go to Palawan center. For instance, she said, a wine company would be holding its wine testing activities in the center.

PALAWAN puts its best products, resort destinations forward at the Palawan Center.

Gov't backing

Although the center is a private sector initiate, it enjoys the full support of the provincial government of Palawan.

Reyes said the provincial government had put up an office in the center to be manned by well-trained representatives who will be able to provide anyone, particularly prospective investors, all information about Palawan and the ABCs of doing business in the island.

"By being there, we are giving the center our full support. We will address all inquiries about local laws and provide prospective stakeholders all possible help they would need. Through this, we will be cutting the red tape that usually turns off would-be investors," Reyes said.

It is also the provincial government's task to continuously assure prospective investors and visitors that Palawan is safe, that what happened in 2001 was an isolated case.

"We have been doing this all the time. We never wavered in our efforts to promote Palawan and that enabled us to bounce back," the governor said.

STRING BEANS FOR SALE.
String beans from the vegetable fields of Parioc, Candon City, Ilocos Sur go for P20-P30 a bundle at the city market, providing local farmers with a good source of livelihood.

LEONCIO BALBIN, JR., PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

WB pushes for gov't action on sanitation

RP losing $1.3B/yr due to water pollution

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK AND OTHER FOReign donors have urged the government to address the serious problem on sanitation, which they said was one of the worst in Asia and had taken its toll on the economy.

Ben Eijebergen, coordinator for the infrastructure sector at the World Bank-Manila, said the Philippines suffers $1.3 billion (about P68 billion) in losses every year due to water pollution.

The amount factored in the cost of treating water-borne illnesses, lost potential income from fishing, and decline in hotel occupancy rate due to water pollution that turned off tourists, Eijebergen said.

In a presentation based on data from a study by the Asian Development Bank, Eijebergen said only 4 percent of the population in Metro Manila had access to sewerage in 2000, making Metro Manila third to the last among 18 cities surveyed in Asia.

Manila only outperformed Vientiane (capital city of Laos) and Jakarta (Indonesia), where less than 4 percent of the population have access to sewerage system.

Dhaka (Bangladesh), Colombo (Sri Lanka), and Phnom Penh (Cambodia) were some of the countries that performed better than Metro Manila, with more than 20 percent of their population having access to a sewerage system.

"Outside Metro Manila, access to sewerage network is almost non-existent," Eijenbergen said in a forum on sanitation yesterday in Ortigas, Pasig City.

The World Bank official said that the Philippines needed about P130 billion in financing, based on the 84 million projected population last year, to build the required infrastructure and adopt the necessary technology to develop water sanitation system in the country.

The World Bank said the poor state of sanitation in the Philippines could be attributed partly to the low priority given by the national government and local government units.

He urged the government to prioritize sanitation by providing incentives for LGUs and utilities in sewerage investments.

He added that there was an urgent need to reinforce public awareness on the adverse social and economic impact of inadequate sewerage and sanitation.

"The fact that Bangladesh was better off than the Philippines makes the issue of poor sanitation a very serious problem," said Lisa Kircher Lumbao of the USAID, who was also at the forum.

USAID said it was coordinating with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the Philippines' biggest source of official development assistance, to develop programs on sanitation, including the establishment of a revolving fund for projects related to sanitation improvement.

For its part, the German Technical Cooperation or GTZ said it had already embarked on several programs on sanitation, including the "Water and Sanitation Program."

The program includes technical advisory on water and sanitation improvement, capacity building for local governments, among others.

A summit on Philippine sanitation would be held on July 5 and 6 to increase public awareness on the seriousness of the problem on poor sanitation as well as programs that can help address the problem.

The forum is organized by the Departments of Health and Natural Resources.

Tap halal market, firms urged

Southeast Asia one of biggest segments in market, DTI says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry has called on companies to consider serving the global halal market due to its bright prospects.

Belencita G. Fernandez, assistant chief of the Bureau of Export Trade Promotions' communications division, said yesterday that local companies would do well to understand the needs of the Muslim market considering that Southeast Asia is one of the biggest segments in the global halal market.

Fernandez said this yesterday at the start of the start of the first Manila International Forum on Halal Trade and Industry held at the Hotel Intercontinental.

The forum gathered experts and business officials from Malaysia, Singapore, The Netherlands, Japan, and Indonesia where the World Halal Council is based.

Halal is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refer to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

But Fernandez explained that aside from the already promising food sector, halal also encompasses businesses in manufacturing products like cosmetics, perfumes, toiletries and body care; pharmaceutical products, and herbal and health care products.

In the service industry, business operations must also be certified halal before Muslims can avail themselves of them, as in airline in-flight food service, hotels, restaurants, tourism centers, wellness centers, catering Services, medical tourism, and financial services.

The same goes for supermarkets, warehouses, delivery vans, and logistics services.

She said that with the world's Muslim population expected to growth by more than half to 3.2 billion by 2010, the global trade of halal products was valued at an estimated range of $200 billion and $350 billion a year.

Even then, Fernandez said the International Market Bureau of Canada places the potential value of the market at $500 billion a year, with most of the trading done in Southeast Asia and West Asia, more popularly known as the Middle East.

As for Southeast Asia, the region represents a demand that would reach $51 billion within five years as it is home to the country with the biggest Muslim population (Indonesia); a halal food hub (Malaysia); and Muslim populations with high purchasing power (Brunei and Singapore).

According to Shahlan Hairalah, chief of the Halal Certification Strategic Unit of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, the business of producing halal products as well as of certifying products as halal was expected to mature due to increasing demand among Muslims for a wide variety of food just like those enjoyed by non-Muslims.

This is aside from the large segment of young Muslims that would drive up consumption of food and beverages.

In Singapore, popular food brands like McDonalds, KFC, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, Delifrance and Nestle undergo halal certification.

The BETP's Fernandez said halal offered further opportunities for its attraction to the cross-over market, or non-Muslim consumers who patronize halal products considering the rigorous quality control that these passed.

Fernandez cautioned those who would tap the halal market against false marketing or passing off products with fake "halal-certified" markings.

"Opportunities for Philippine companies to develop abound in serving existing markets and capturing new ones," she said. "There is great demand for halal-certified products but supply is low worldwide."

Basilan puts on new face

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, BASILAN—DESPITE THE ABsence of top government officials, around 500 businessmen from all over the five-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao gathered in this former stronghold of the Moro extremist group Abu Sayyaf for the 5th ARMM Business Congress which opened yesterday.

"The event is also an image building effort because until now, Basilan is considered a lair of the Abu Sayyaf. We are holding the congress there to disprove that perception," said Haron Bandila, chair of the ARMM Business Council.

The two-day event, Bandila said, was also aimed at strengthening the partnerships between key stakeholders of peace and development in the region.

"It is designed to promote peace and social progress through the establishment of a sound and stable local economy," said Bandila, who is also undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the ARMM.

Until four years ago, Lamitan was considered a base of the Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled Islamist group with ties to the al-Qaida.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan and Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar failed to show up in yesterday's program due to "emergency and pressing issues."

Samson Gogo, executive director of the regional Bureau of Public Information, said Ampatuan was scheduled to grace the affair but "because of the latest incident, the explosion in Shariff Aguak (in Maguindanao) the other day and the arrival of two top officials in Maguindanao, he cannot make it."

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Rasheed Sakkalahul said Akbar was in Syria.

Several local and national investors were disappointed by the absence of the governors, Bandila said.

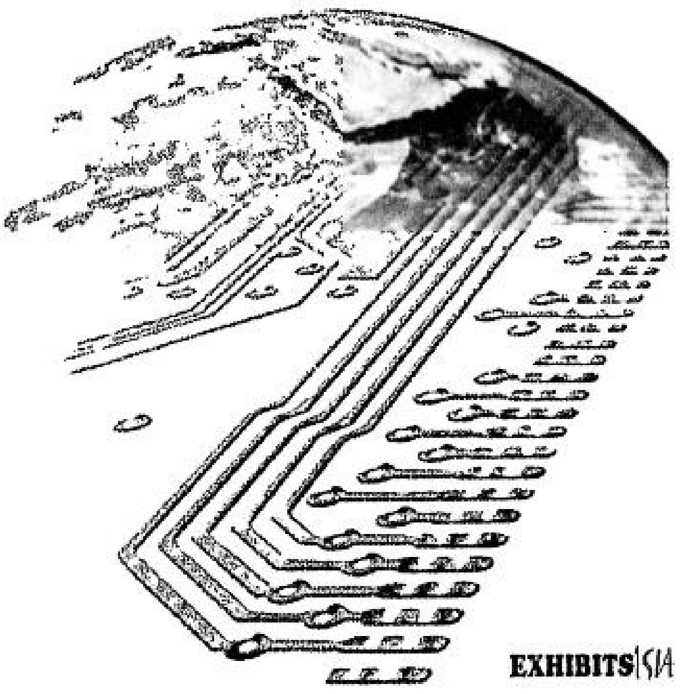
In an earlier statement, Ampatuan said the business congress could become a vital link between the regional government and the business sector toward the implementation of programs and policies that are essential to socioeconomic development.

"Our major industries, such as rubber, seaweeds and halal will greatly benefit from this event. This would then uplift the lives of the ordinary people," he said.

"I hope that when people hear of the place Lamitan, the first thing that would get into their mind will be the conduct of the 5th ARMM Business Congress and other good things instead of the infamous incident that happened here several years ago," Lamitan Mayor Roderick Furigay said, referring to the Abu Sayyaf siege of the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital.

Councilor Joaquin Puri Jr. said he hoped the holding of the business conference here would boost the province's image as one of region's economic hubs.

"We want to show the world that Basilan is no longer the breeding ground of terrorists, it is now transforming into an economic hub," Furigay said.



PSECE 2006

Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Convention and Exhibition

"BACK IN BUSINESS"

Philippine International Convention Center, Manila
27 - 29 June 2006

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI), the leading and largest organization of foreign and local semiconductor and electronics companies in the country, will hold "PSECE 2006 - the Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Convention & Exhibition" to be held at the PICC beginning today through thursday (June 27-29, 2006). As a major economic force in the Philippines, the members, partners, and suppliers of SEIPI will gather during this three-day event where industry and technology come together, combining a series of large and formal conference and assemblies with an up-to-date technology exhibit and trade show.

Electronics is acknowledged as the main driver of the Philippine economy as it accounts for 66 percent of the country's total exports last year. With SEIPI's member companies, numbering over 200, responsible for over 90 percent of total electronics exports; this unequivocally makes SEIPI the country's foremost economic force. This industry has indeed transformed the Philippines into a regional center of excellence in selected electronics industry products and processes, making the country an investment location of choice for those who wish to design, make, and sell their products. All these will be showcased in the country's principal semiconductor and electronics convention and exhibit starting today.

How It All Began

The semiconductor and electronics industry in the country began in the 70s when multinationals from the West set-up plants in the country. Investors turned to the Philippines at a time when global competition dictated an urgent need to lower production costs without sacrificing quality. Soon after, countries from all over Asia followed as several favorable conditions fostered the growth of the electronics sector. Locally, multinational firms provided competitive balance in the business creating the impetus to further boost the industry.

The electronics industry started out with the simplest type of chip packaging until it evolved into what it is today, assembling and testing the most sophisticated electronics products and components available in the global market. Buoyed by the availability of skilled, cost-competitive, and English-speaking technical workforce, electronics corporations have found the site for the manufacture of such products as the advanced microprocessors, cd-rom drives, digital signal processing units, printed circuit boards, hard disk drives, anti-lock brake system, and computers.

SEIPI Today

Nearly 30 years later, the electronics industry accounts for more than US$ 27.3 billion of the total Philippine exports of merchandise goods. It directly employs over 400,000 engineers, technical workers and operators. 14 percent of these employees occupy managerial and executive positions while 86 percent are production workers and others. The industry also boasts of employing over 300,000 women who contribute to augmenting family incomes and in alleviating poverty. For every one direct job employed, there are seven indirect jobs generated by the industry.

Ernie Santiago, SEIPI Executive Director, stated that, "the impact of the industry on job creation is more evident in the local economies where SEIPI member companies are located." For example, the relatively high concentration of electronics firms in Laguna, Cavite and Batangas have facilitated the economic transformation of these economies from agricultural to industrial economies according to Santiago.

SEIPI continues to work towards making a competitive environment for electronics business to grow, driving the Philippines towards global leadership information and communications technology and high technology manufacturing business. SEIPI focuses its activities on competency development, values formation, development of allied and support industry, public policy advocacy leadership, retaining existing and attracting new electronics companies, improvement of the industry organization, and focused marketing and improving the image of the country.

The Philippine semiconductor and electronics industry has always been cyclical but in an upward direction. This has not changed today. The industry must continue to do the right things to prepare for its future success. "Knowing that adversity always transcends unique opportunities, it is up to us to make the most of it," Director Santiago concluded.

And PSECE 2006 is definitely towards the right direction strengthening ties between key players of the industry, exchanging ideas about trends, innovations and know-how, and enhancing the competitive environment for electronics business to continue to grow and drive the Philippines towards global leadership in information and communications technology.

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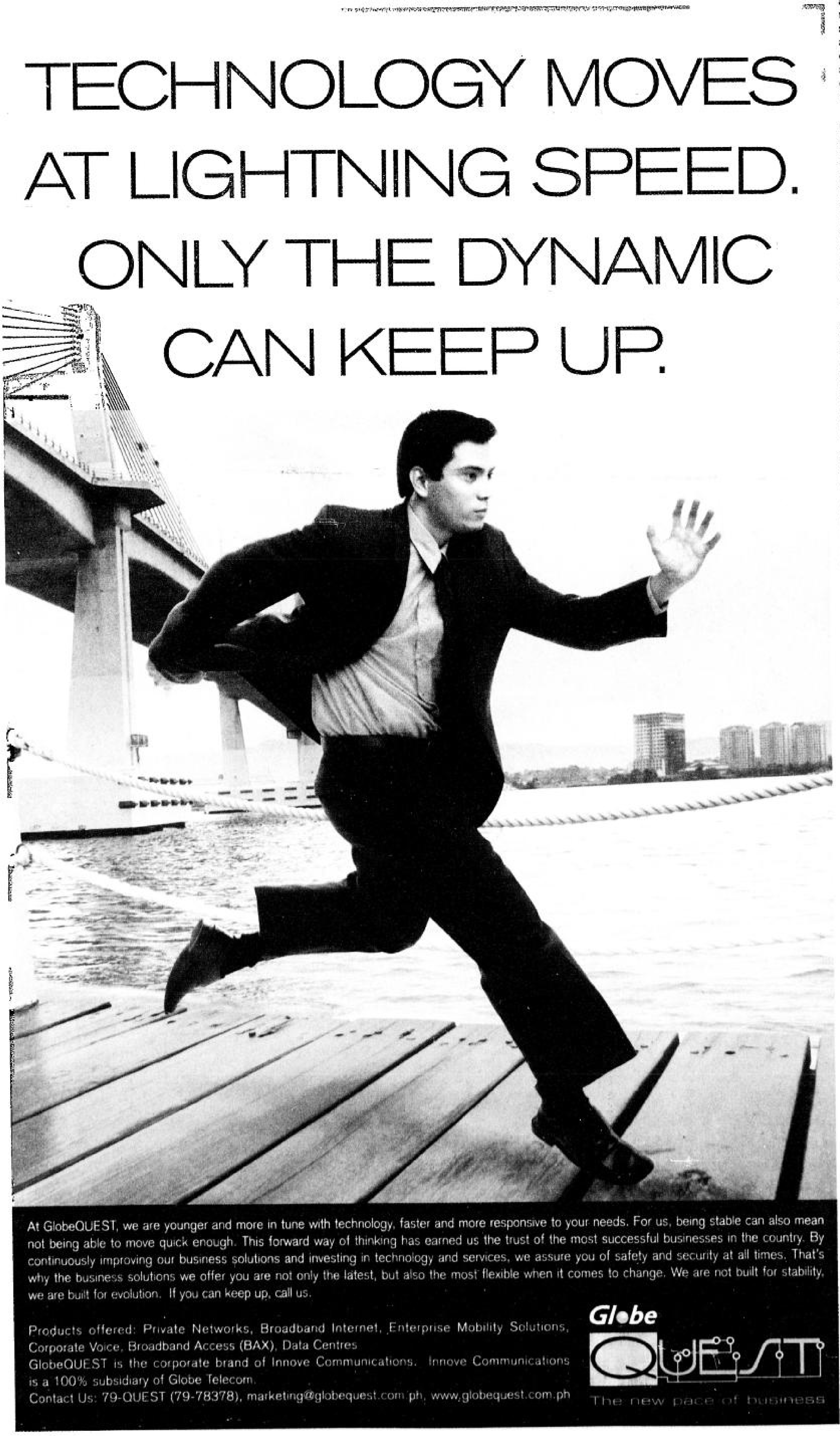
BP Integrated Technologies, Inc.
Brownstone Asia-Tech, Inc
Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP)
Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP)
CAD-IT Consultants (ASIA) Pte. Ltd
Call Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP)
Cardplus Marketing/Citibank
Chip Hua Equipment & Tools Pte. Ltd.
Cityneon Philippines
Clark Development Corporation
Columbia Transport, Inc (COLTRANS)
Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc. (CIGI)
Cookson Electronics
Covenant Group
Cytek Solutions, Inc
D Squared Technology, Inc
De La Salle University, College of Engineering
DHL Express
Edgeworth Corporation
E-Konek Pilipinas, Inc.
Eltech Corporation
Extreme Systems Technology Philippines, Inc.
FICO
Fuji Machine Phils., Inc.
Gatepacific Enterprises
Ginza Marketing
Globaltech Automation, Inc
GMV Corporation
Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation, Inc.
HDM Technologies, Inc
Henkel Philippines, Inc.



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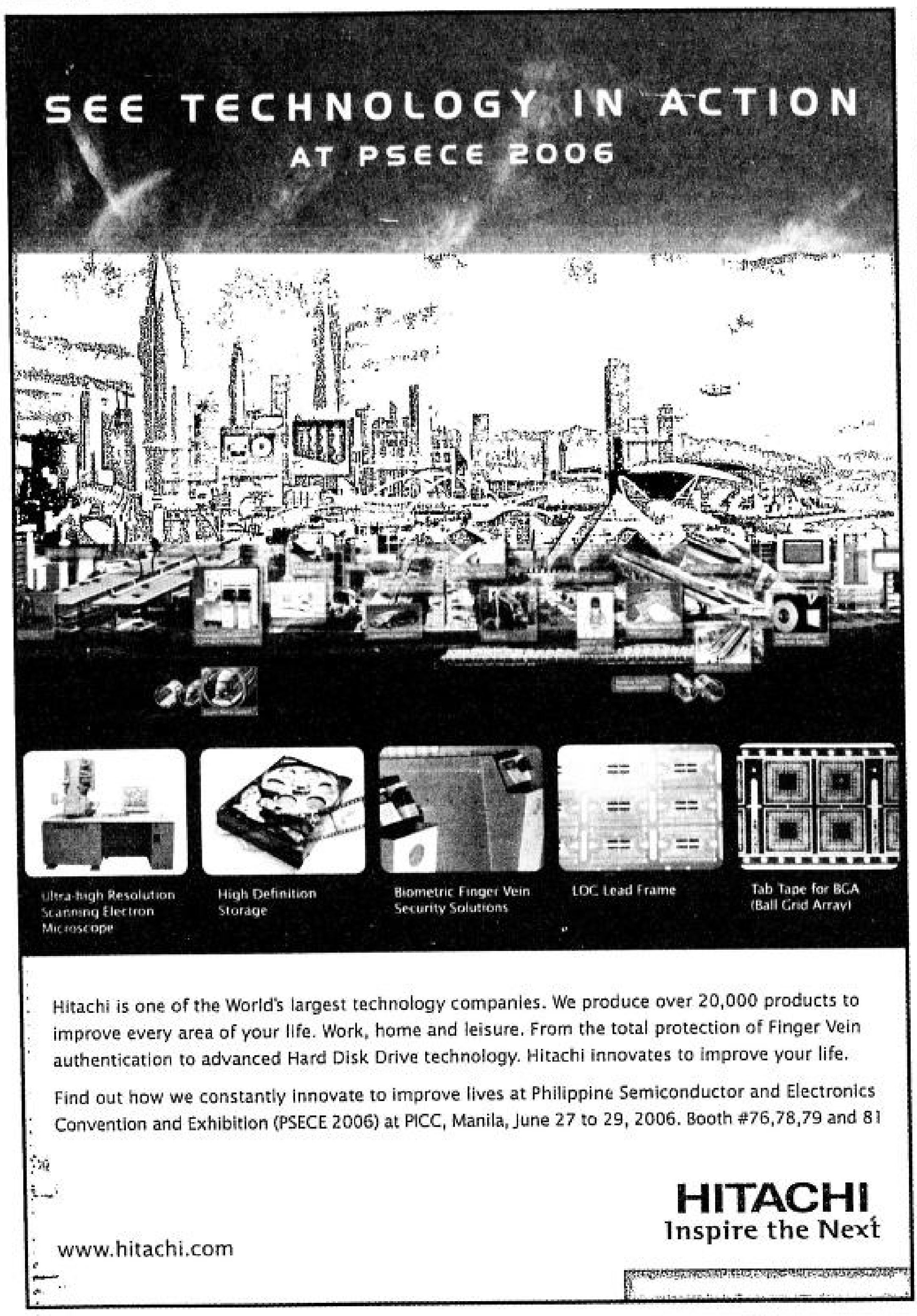
SEIPI SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

EXHIBITORS

- Heraeus Electronic Materials Philippines, Inc
- Hitachi Group of Companies
  - Hitachi Asia Ltd.
  - Hitachi Global Storage Technologies Philippines Corp.
  - Hitachi High Technologies (S) Pte. Ltd.
  - Hitachi Cable Asia Ltd.
  - PHCP, Inc.
- Holcim Philippines, Inc.
- IMI (Integrated Microelectronics, Inc.)
- Innove Communications/GlobeQUEST
- Intel Technology Philippines, Inc.
- Ishii Tool & Engineering Corp.
- Keithley Instruments Singapore
- Kemtronix Systems, Inc.
- Kenag Corporation
- Kimberly-Clark Philippines, Inc.
- Maedan Enterprise, Inc.
- Mapua Insitute of Technology (School of Graduate Studies)
- Maxtronix, Inc.
- Mesco, Inc
- Minami Machineries & Electronics, Inc.
- National Instruments
- Nestle Foodservices
- Nupon Technology Phils. Corp.
- P. IMES Corporation
- Pacific Rim Packaging Phils., Inc
- Philippine Electricity Market Corporation
- Philippine Electronics and Semiconductor Suppliers Association
- Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.
- Philippine National IT Standards Foundation, Inc. (PhilNITS)
- Philippine Science Centrum
- Philips Semiconductors Philippines, Inc. (Calamba)
- Pricon Microelectronics/Yamaichi Electronics Singapore
- Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM)
- PSi Technologies, Inc.
- Quantel Philippines, Inc.
- RNM Dynamics (Phils.), Inc.
- Rohde & Schwarz (Philippines) Inc.
- Rohm & Haas Electronic Materials Asia Ltd
- Romma Electronics Industry Corp.
- SA Technologies Unlimited, Inc
- Sanko Plastics Phils., Inc.
- Schmidt Philippines Incorpo
- Semateq Inc./IST, Inc.
- Sertec-Techedge
- Silicon Exponents Corpora
- Sunpower Philippines Manu
- Takachiho Philippines, Inc
- Technology Plus Industries
- Techsource Systems Pte. L
- Telesemi Corporation
- Temic Automotive (Phils.), I
- TI Philippines, Inc.
- TNT Express Worldwide (P
- Tritronics Technology Phili
- TUV Rheinland Philippines
- University of the Philippine College of Engineerin
- Versatrade/Philippine Des
- Wings Technologies Enterp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High Definition Storage

Biometric Finger Vein Security Solutions

LOC Lead Frame

Tab Tape for BGA (Ball Grid Array)

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- Tape Ball Grid Array Substrate
- Rigid Ball Grid Array Substrate
- COF Substrate
- TCP Substrate
- Light Emitting Diode (LED) Assembly and Test
  - Multi chip module
  - Display

Contact Persons:
Mr. Yoshihiko Okamoto - President
Ms. Gemma Tapang - COO
Mr. Hisanori Kiyota - Operations Director

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SCHE

Association of Electronics and Semiconductor for Safety a Protection (AESSEP)

"ASEAN Regional TREATI Workshop on Standards an
Regulations in the Electrical and Electronic Equipme
26 - 27 June 2006 (Monday-Tuesday), 8:00AM - 5
Venue: Meeting Room 6, Secretariat Building,

Day 1 Monday 26 June 2006

9:00 AM Registration
9:30 Official Opening
9:50 Introduction to the European Union (EU) and parall
10:30 Introduction to Q&A format followed by Q&A sessio
10:40 Coffee Break and Press Conference
11:05 Overview of EU standards and legislation for import
How to comply with recent and historical developme
12:05 Q&A Session
12:15 Lunch
1:30 Market Surveillance as a tool to monitor compliance
2:15 Q&A Session
2:25 Coffee Break
2:45 -How exporters have developed (or will develop) th
adaptation to the new EU regulations,
-How new regulations have affected (or will effect) r
opportunities,
-The long term benefits and cost saving of complian
3:35 Implementation of WEEE and RoHS
4:45 Summary and Q&A Session
5:00 Close

Day 2 Tuesday 27 June 2006

7:30AM Registration of Delegates
Venue: Reception Hall Lobby
8:00 PSECE 2006 Opening Ceremony
Venue: Reception Hall, PICC
Ribbon-Cutting of the Exhibit
Venue: The Forum, PICC
10:00 Start of Convention
Introduction to planned future EU legislation
11:10 Q & A Session
11:20 Impact of recent EU regulations
12:00PM Q & A Session
12:15 Lunch break
1:30 - How exporters have developed (or will develop) th
adaptation to the new EU regulations
- How new regulations have affected (or will effect) r
opportunities.
- The long-term benefits and cost savings of complia
directives.
2:15 Summary, Q&A Session and Introduction to Afterno
2:25 Coffee Break
2:45 Expert panel in-depth response to questions
4:45 Seminar Feedback
Overview of feedback forms
All delegates are required to complete the forms at t
for evaluation.
5:00 Workshop Closing Ceremony
Closing Remarks from ASEAN and European Comm
representatives
5:15 End of Convention
Visit the Exhibit
6:00 PSECE Exhibitors' Night/NWC Raffle

Association of SEIPI Finance Executive (ASEFEX)

"A Comprehensive Look at Rationalization of Fiscal I
27 June 2006 (Tuesday), 1:00PM - 5:00PM
Venue: Meeting Room 8, Secretariat Building, P
Participation Fee: Php 500.00/delegate

7:30AM Registration of Delegates
Venue: PICC Secretarial Registration Counter
8:00 PSECE 2006 Opening Ceremony
Venue: Reception Hall, PICC
Ribbon-Cutting of the Exhibit
Venue: The Forum, PICC
1:00 PM Welcome Remarks
Louie R. Macabag
Chairman, ASEFEX
1:15 Message
Ernie Santiago
Executive Director, S
1:40 Views and Perspect
of Fiscal Incentives
John Forbes, Direct
American Chamber
Commerce in the Pr
Chairman & Senior A
Climate Improvemen
Henry Schumacker,
Vice President, Euro
Chamber of Comme
Fides Bale, Partner
4:00 ASEFEX GMM - Re
4:50 Reaction and Propo
ASEFEX Board
5:15 End of Convention
Visit the Exhibit
6:00 PSECE Exhibitors N

Association of SEIPI Inform Executives and Profession

"Philippine Resilienc
Competiti
27 June 2006 (Tuesday), 1
Venue: Meeting R
Secretariat Buildi

7:30AM Registration of Dele
Venue: Reception H
8:00 PSECE 2006 Open
Venue: Reception H
Ribbon-Cutting of th
Venue: The Forum,
12:00 Start of Convention
Venue: Meeting Ro
Welcome - SEIPI a
Overview
Mr. Jaffy Jurado, SE
12:30 IT Education in the I
Dr. Jaime Caro, CH
Dr. Caslon Chua, C
1:45 Manufacturing Comp
Information Techno
Mr. Cas Madrid, Ana
2:45 ASITEP linkage with
Mr. Jonathan Castil
Engr. Nancy Flores
3:45 Intelligent Network
Ms. Melody Dy, Cis
4:15 Network for Any-to-A
Mr. Gilbert Virtucio,
5:15 End of Convention
Visit the Exhibit
6:00 PSECE Exhibitors N

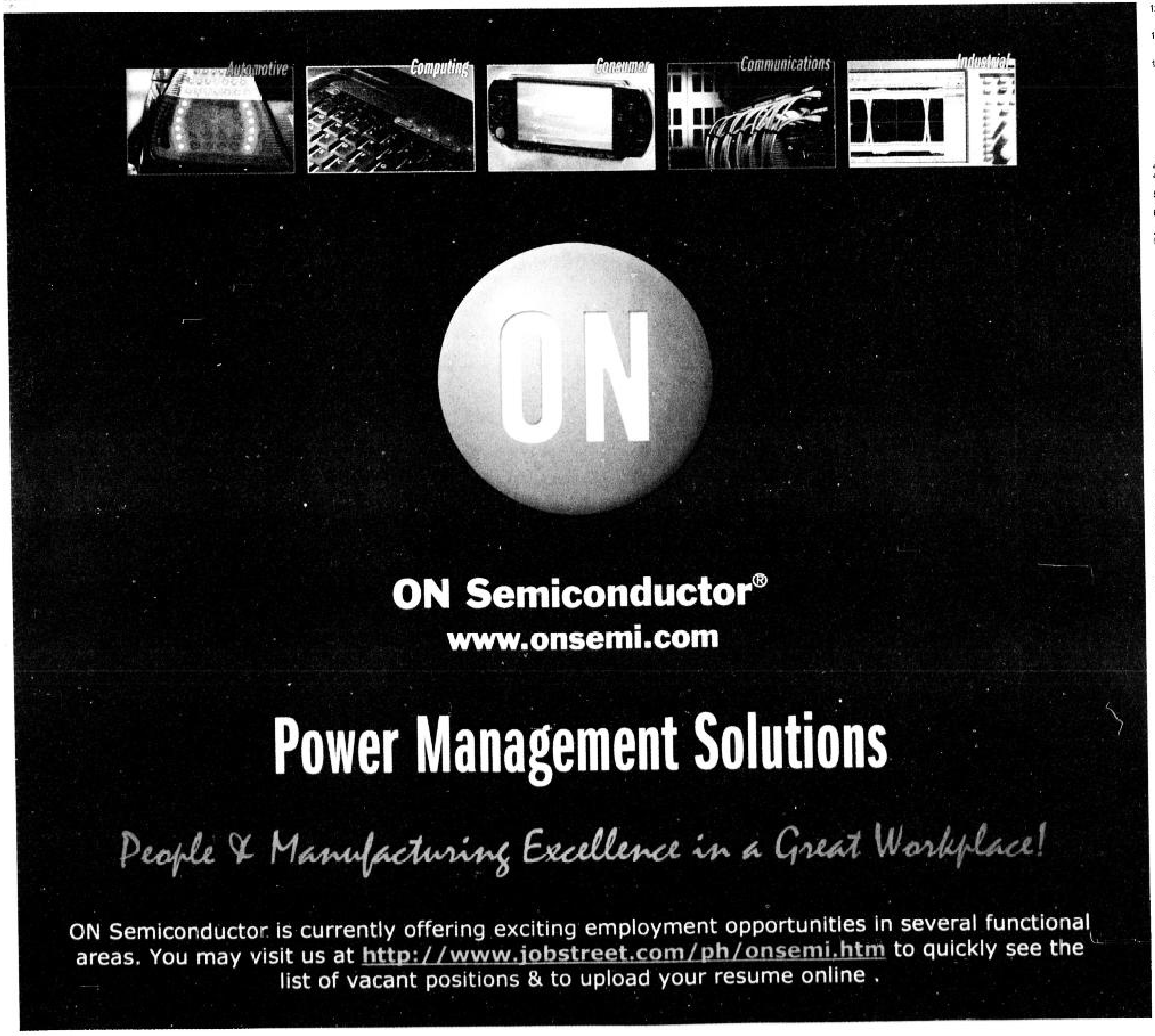
Association of SEIPI Perso Administrators (ASPA)

"A Culture of HR Ex
27 June 2006 (Tuesday), 8
Venue: Meeting R
Secretariat Buildi
Participation Fee: P1,0

7:30AM Registration of Dele
Venue: Reception H
8:00 PSECE 2006 Open
Venue: Reception H
Ribbon-Cutting of th
Venue: The Forum,
10:00 Start of Convention
Venue: Meeting Ro

16th ASEME

Day 1 - June 28, 2006 TIME SLOT
13:30 - 14:00
14:00 - 14:30
14:30 - 15:00



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Futaba Corporation of the Philippines
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Heraeus Electronic Materials Phils.
Integrated Microelectronics, Inc.
Intel Technology Philippines, Inc.
Kisho Sakata Electronics (Phils.), Inc.
Moog Controls Corporation
Music Semiconductors Phils., Inc.
NSG Micro Optics Philippines, Inc.
P.IMES Corporation
Perkinelmer Optoelectronics Phils., Inc.
Pricon Microelectronics, Inc.
PSi Technologies, Inc.
Pycon Technology Phils., Inc.
Sharp Philippines
Team Pacific Corporation
TI Philippines, Inc.
Tridux Electronics & Luminaires, Inc.
Vishay Philippines, Inc.

ULE OF EVENTS

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Invocation
Mr. Jeff dela Cerna, ASPA BOD 2006-2007
Welcome Remarks
Ms. Grace Decena, ASPA Vice Chairman 2006-2007
10:05 Sharing of HR Best Practices
Jollibee Foods Corp. - "Culture Integration"
Mr. Robert Poblete, VP Human Resources
Moog Controls - "Corporate Philosophy As a Way of Life"
Mr. Efren Alberto, HR Manager
United Laboratories, Inc. - "Bayanihan Culture"
Ms. Imee Centeno, SVP for Organizational Development Division"
12:05 HR Panel Discussion
Moderators, Mr. Ernie Espinosa, Fujitsu Computer
Ms. Grace Decena
12:30 Lunch Break
1:30 "A League of Extraordinary HR" PMY Awardees
Ms. Rose Katalbas, VP-Human Resources, Amkor Technologies Phils., Inc.
Mr. Efren Alberto, HR Manager, MOOG Controls Corp.
Mr. Mark Go, HR and Site Services Director, Cypress Manufacturing Ltd.
2:10 PMY Panel Discussion
Moderators: Mr. Teej Arboleda
Ms. Menchie Diokno
Raffle
2:30 Learning Sessions / Labor Updates
"How to Establish a Coaching Culture"
Ms. Menchie Diokno, Managing Partner
(Interactive Learning)
3:30 "Alternative Disputes on Labor Relations"
Dir. Hans Cacdac, Executive Director, NCMB
4:30 Induction of ASPA BODs 2006-2007
Dir. Hans Cacdac, Executive Director, NCMB
4:45 Closing
Mr. Levi F. Diestro, ASPA Chairman 2006-2007
5:30 End of Convention
Visit the Exhibit
6:00 PSECE Exhibitors' Night/NWC Raffle

Association of SEIPI Purchasing Managers (ASPM)
SEIPI Traffic Managers Association (SETMA)
Semiconductor Security Association of the Philippines (SSAP)

"OPTIMUM MANAGEMENT ON TRAFFIC, PROCUREMENT AND SECURITY OF GOODS IN THE VALUE CHAIN"
27 June 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00AM - 5:00PM
Venue: Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, Secretariat Building, PICC
Participation Fee: P 1,500.00/delegate

7:30AM Registration of Delegates
Venue: Reception Hall Lobby
8:00 PSECE 2006 Opening Ceremony
Venue: Reception Hall, PICC
Ribbon-Cutting of the Exhibit
Venue: The Forum, PICC
10:00 Start of Convention
Venue: Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
Invocation/National Anthem
Opening Remarks
Mr. Benny Calahan, SETMA Chairman
Introduction of Speaker
Ms. Ruby Chua, ASPM Chairperson
10:30 Transportation Management
Atty. Romeo Sto. Tomas
12:00NN Lunch Break
Venue: Press Center, Secretariat Building
1:30 Continuation of Convention
1:30 Contract Procurement Management
Atty. Romeo Sto. Tomas
2:35 Coffee Break
3:00 Introduction of Speaker
Mr. Ting Magal, SSAP Chairman
C-TPAT (Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism)
Mr. Venz Canols, ON Semiconductor
4:35 Q & A
5:00 End of Convention
Visit the Exhibit
6:00 PSECE Exhibitors' Night/NWC Raffle
EMCEE: Mr. Martin Coronel/Ms. Bem Espila

Semiconductor and Electronics Training Council (SETC)

"6th Annual Technical Training Summit: Coaching and Mentoring...Beyond Training"
27 June 2006 (Tuesday), 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Venue: Banquet Hall, Secretariat Building, PICC
Participation Fee: P 1,990.00/delegate

8:00 PSECE 2006 Opening Ceremony
Venue: Reception Hall, PICC
Ribbon-Cutting of the Exhibit
Venue: The Forum, PICC
9:45 Registration of Delegates
Venue: Banquet Hall
10:30 Doxology
10:35 National Anthem
10:40 Welcome Remarks and SETC Update
Mr. Ronald Hilaria, SETC Chairman
10:50 Presentation 1 - Differences Between Coaching, Mentoring and Training
Ms. Marie May SJ Soriano
11:50 Q & A
12:00NN Lunch Break
1:30PM Fellowship with Sponsors
1:45 Induction of New SETC Officers and Acknowledgement of Sponsors
2:00 Presentation 2 - How to Implement Coaching and Mentoring in Big Organizations
Prof. Maria Luisa (Lulu) Moguel
3:00 Q & A
3:10 Afternoon Break
3:35 Raffle Draw and Ice Breaker
3:45 Presentation 3 - Success Story:Implementation and Tracking System of Coaching and Mentoring"
4:45 Q & A
4:55 Closing Remarks and Grand Raffle Draw
Mr. Jimmy Apolinar
Viewing of Exhibit

16th ASEMEP NATIONAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM OPENING

Opening Ceremonies Program - 28 June 2006

8:00AM Registration & Morning Snacks
9:00 Invocation
Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf - SAID Students
9:15 National Anthem
Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf - SAID Students
9:25 Parade of Colors
9:35 Welcome Remarks
Mr. Jimmy Apolinar, ASEMEP Chairman
9:50 ASEMEP Theme AVP
10:00 Introduction of Inspirational Speaker
Ms. Rochelly Martinez, ASEMEP Secretary
10:05 Inspirational Speaker
Mr. Tadashi Yamaji, P.IMES Corporation
10:25 Introduction of Industry Update Speaker
Mr. Raul Sinocruz, ASEMEP Vice-Chairman
10:30 Semiconductor and Electronics Update
Mr. Ernie Santiago, SEIPI Executive Director
10:50 Introduction of Plenary Speaker
Mr. Ernie Santiago, SEIPI Executive Director
10:55 Plenary Speech
Atty. Lilia de Lima, PEZA Director General
11:15 Introduction of Academe Speaker
Mr. Rider Dacasin, ASEMEP Treasurer
11:20 Academe Presentation
Speaker: Dr. Luis Sison, Associate Professor
Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, University of the Philippines
11:40 Induction of New Set of ASEMEP Officers
Mr. Ernie Santiago, SEIPI Executive Director
11:50 Turn-over Ceremonies - 17th ASEMEP NTS Host Company
11:55 Closing Remarks
Master of Ceremonies
12:00PM Lunch and Exhibit Viewing

P NATIONAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SESSION A	SESSION B	SESSION C	SESSION D
MODERATORS: Nic Bordeos Amkor Phils. Jojo Esmeria TDK-Fujitsu	MODERATORS: Desire Gella Analog Devices Ronnie Rivera Philips Cabuyao	MODERATORS: Cecilie Dolon Philips Cabuyao Ronald Hilario Amkor Phils.	MODERATORS: Mar Arnante NMC Beth Urquia TDK-Fujitsu
eduction of astewater scharge through eprocessing of econd-Pass everse Osmosis ne Waste	Improving LCT Test Development through Use of a Perl-Based Test Program Generator (Perl LCT Compiler)	Logistic Regression Analysis: An Effective Tool for Identifying Significant Factors Affecting Human Visual Inspection	Reduction of Indentation Defects in Flexible Printed Circuits Backend Manufacturing Process
eduction of astewater reatment hemicals onsumption	Achievement of Cost Effective Test Process thru Tester Confidence Analysis	Simplifying P-Chart by Relating to Standard (Z) Score Formula	Achieving Zero Missing Leads thru Mechanism Analysis at Mold and DTFS
oltage Fluctuations Public Utility ower, Manila and hiladelphia	Using Data Mining Tools to Achieve High-Quality RF Test for GSM/EDGE Power Amplifier Modules	Understanding Protective Overcoat Damages: Failure Analysis to the Next Level	Analysis and Solution on Package Chipping and Excess Gate Flash Problem

16th ASEMEP NATIONAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Snack			
15:30 - 16:00	ESD Grounding Set-Up for Ground Noise and Leakage Current Protection	Process Simplification through Test Integration	High Temperature Functional Cycling Test: Incorporating PTC into Automated Parametric Testing	Partline Buildup Analysis: Baseline for Establishing Tool Set Cleaning Frequency for Plated Leadframes
16:00 - 16:30	A Novel Ionizer Design with Both DC and AC High Voltage Bias	Teradyne A565 Low Current Ammeter (LCA) System Checker	Eliminating MC34262 Probe Card Trimming Failure by Improving Trim Cut Circuit thru Component Replacement	Fool Proof Solution to Eliminate Machine Induced Lead Defect Caused by the Jerking Motion During Tape Indexing
16:30 - 17:00	Product Engineering 101: Conquering the EOS Plague	High Voltage Testing Setup Verifier	Incomplete Fill Elimination (Short Shot Effect) through Electrical Circuit Modification	Tape and Reel Process Foolproofing through Software Change

Day 2 - June 29, 2006 TIME SLOT	SESSION A	SESSION B	SESSION C	SESSION D	SESSION E
8:00 - 9:00	Coffee Break				
	MODERATORS: Jun Dacusan Intel Phil. Cesar Enriquez AMS	MODERATORS: Johnny Sim Philips Calamba Olga Bernardino Analog Devices	MODERATORS: [illegible] [illegible] Ariel Pascual Philips Cabuyao	MODERATORS: [illegible] Philips Cabuyao Ana Arpel Philips Cabuyao	MODERATORS: [illegible] Analog Devices [illegible] Philips Calamba
9:00 - 9:30	Copper Post Bumping Technology - Enhanced Thermal Cycle Reliability of Wafer Level Chip Scale Packages	Detection and Screening of Pre-Stressed [illegible] Diodes using [illegible] Parameter	Seamless Transfer Methodology for New Products	Reduced Mixed Gas Consumption on Die Bond Machines	Bonder APC Advance Process Controls for Intelligent Wirebonders
9:30 - 10:00	Thermo-Mechanical Performance of SOT-23 Package Using a Thin Leadframe	Understanding Contact Resistance Test and Controlling it for Better Yield Performance	Test Yield Improvement of Circuit Evaluation Devices through Power Output Optimization via Circuit Element Tuning	Transition to Lead Free Assembly Using the Process Window Index (PWI) Methodology on Reflow Profiling	Lifted Metal: A Challenge to 90nm Technology Low-K Wirebonding
10:00 - 10:30	Thermal Degradation of [illegible] Adhesion in Wafer Level Chip Scale Package	Open-Die Chip-on-Board Package Concept Development for Photodiode IC Devices	Improving RF Power Amplifier Performance through Bond Wire Loop Height Optimization	Solder Resist Cure Optimization of UFBGA Substrate: A Breakthrough Approach in Assembly DPPM Reduction	Bonder Fingerprinting: A Solution for Robust Ultra Low K with Ultra Thin In-Line Bond Pad Fine Pitch Wirebonding
10:30 - 11:00	The Effects of Leadframe Surface Topography on 2nd Bond Integrity			Design and Integration of a [illegible] Dispense Inspection System for the Flip Chip Process	Lifted Ball Elimination through Delaying EFO Firing Sequence
11:00 - 11:45	Learning Session on Fabrication of Enhancement and Depletion Mode High Electron Mobility Transistor Devices on a Common Epitaxial Layer	Learning Session on Development of an Autonomous Mobile Robot	Learning Session on Integrated Lean-Six Sigma Initiative	Learning Session on Developing Application of Fuzzy Expert System in Altshuller Contradiction Matrix	Automated Measurement of Intermetallic Coverage on Ball Bonds
11:45 - 12:15	Learning Session on WEEE and RoHS Directives	Learning Session on [illegible] Charting due Surface ESD	Learning Session on Fabrication of Nanometer Features on Conductive Surfaces using Electrostatic Spark Discharges	Learning Session on TRIZ - The Innovative Approach to Semiconductor Assembly Process Release and Solution Formulation	Learning Session on Test Technology for Next Generation High Density Magnetic Recording of Hard Disk Drive
12:15 - 13:30	LUNCH				
	SESSION A MODERATORS: Jun [illegible] Intel Phil.	SESSION B MODERATORS: Jojo Esmeria TDK-Fujitsu	SESSION C MODERATORS: Cesar Enriquez AMS	SESSION D MODERATORS: [illegible] Analog Devices	SESSION E MODERATORS: [illegible]
13:30 - 14:15	Using Signal Analysis with NI Modular Instruments to Easily Acquire, Generate and Automate your Measurements - National Instruments (45 minutes)	[illegible] - GlobeQUEST	WiMAX - 802.16-2004, 802.16e Introduction to WiMAX / Generate and Analyze 802.16-2004, 802.16e (WiMAX) - Rohde & Schwarz (45 minutes)	[illegible] (45 minutes)	Problems Facing the Wire Bonder - [illegible]
14:15 - 14:45	[illegible]	Principal Sponsors Learning Session	Principal Sponsors Learning Session	Principal Sponsors Learning Session	Principal Sponsors Learning Session
14:45 - 15:30	Afternoon Snack				
15:30 - 19:45	[illegible]				
19:00 - 23:00	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT				

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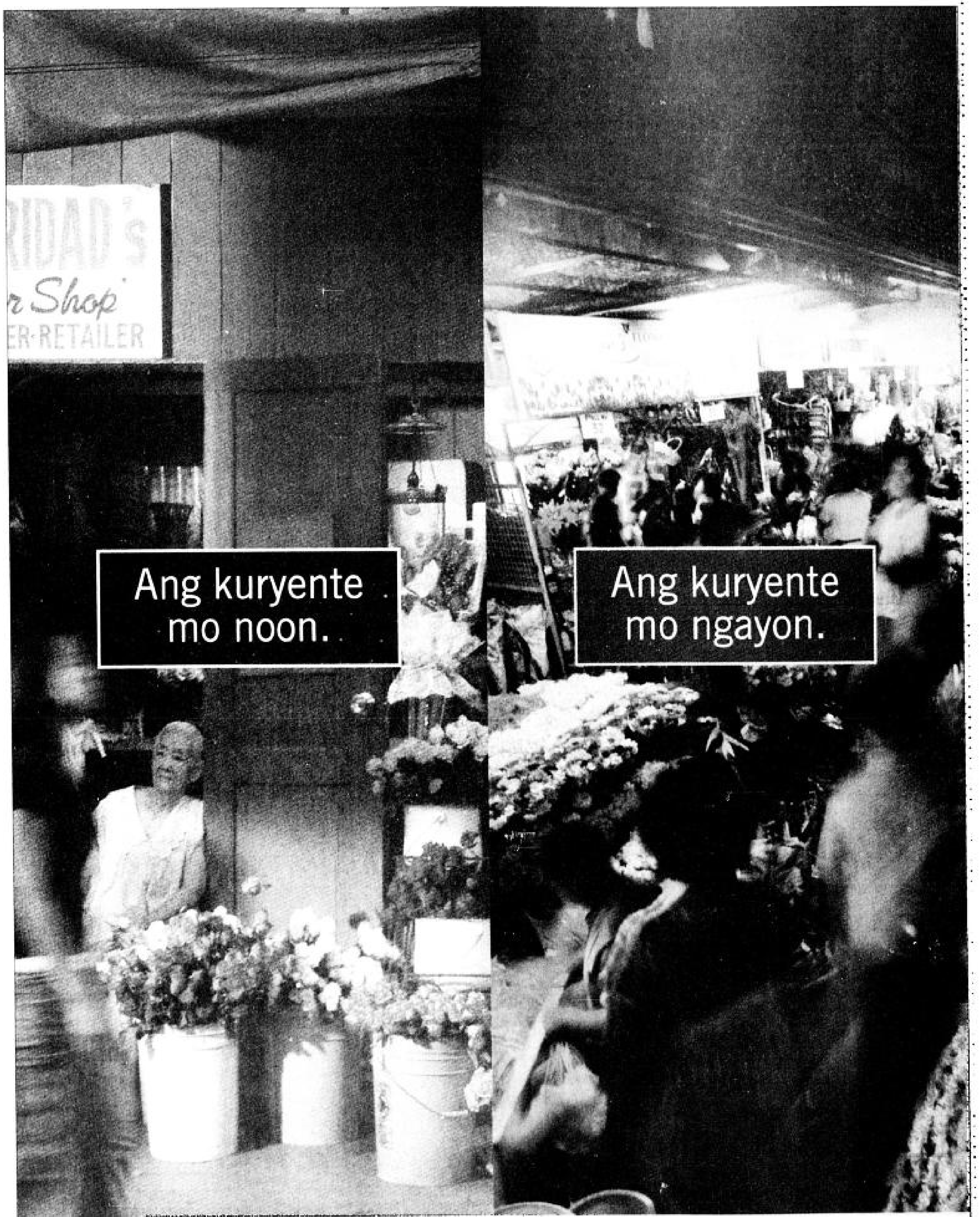
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS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THE INTERNET EXPLOSION HAS BECOME AN everyday supernova. The Web has become a household fixture. We live in a world driven by information; the Internet boom reverberates with constant upgrades, reacting to the unwritten 18-month obsolescence rule. Broadband Internet subscribers have grown from 10 million to 100 million over the last three years, and they want unmatched connectivity like never before.

With the number of Internet users expanding to astronomical amounts on a monthly basis, one questions how the information superhighway can possibly be able to accommodate it all. Despite all the breakthroughs in technology today, security advancements are lagging, it is more difficult to operate within public and private networks, and connectivity for remote areas is slow and costly. On top of that are the growing trends of peer-to-peer computing, personal webpages and mobile Internet. More problems continue to arise as more people continue to go online, because the fact of the matter is that there are only a very limited number of available IP addresses left. How then, are providers of Internet services going to support the increasing amount of subscribers without diminishing the quality of connectivity?

The answer was revealed at PLDT Innolab, during an executive briefing to government officials, technology experts, CTOs and CIOs of various corporations. PLDT, in partnership with Microsoft Phils, Cisco Systems Phils, the Advanced Science and Technology Institute and InfoWeapons, held this exclusive event in order to discuss what is now being pegged as the "Next Generation Internet Technology". The phenomenon backed by all this hype is called IPv6, the latest innovation in Internet Protocol.

Its predecessor, IPv4, was created when there were about 200 nodes on the entire Internet. Today, there are about 200 million that exist, and a limited amount of IP addresses left to accommodate them. Although several attempts have been made in order to avoid an overflow of subscribers, this can no longer be contained by IPv4 addresses alone. Lawrence E. Hughes, CTO and founder of InfoWeapons Corp and co-founder of CipherTrust, said, "I have been working in the IT business for 33 years, and for 33 years, the Internet has been running on IPv4 addresses. It's about time we've acknowledged and considered the benefits of incorporating IPv6." What IPv6 aims to do is support the astronomic growth of the Internet without the present workarounds such as the Network Address Translation. It has been engineered in such a way that it will integrate itself smoothly into a network that is presently dominated by IPv4. Both will be able to function simultaneously, serving as platforms for Internet subscribers to secure hassle-free connectivity.

However, IPv6 also offers much more than just a larger amount of available IP addresses. It also offers better routing and automatic configuration, better security in utilizing data encryption, better audio and video streaming and the ability to send much larger amounts of data at a time. Soon, there will be such a thing as IPTV, and all data services in the future will be able to migrate to IPv6. Because of the copious possibilities that this will bring about, IPv4 will eventually become obsolete. Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and head of corporate business group said, "We are sitting on a ticking time bomb that is ready to explode in the near future. With the help of IPv6, we at PLDT are ready to enable our subscribers with the technology to transition gracefully into the next generation."

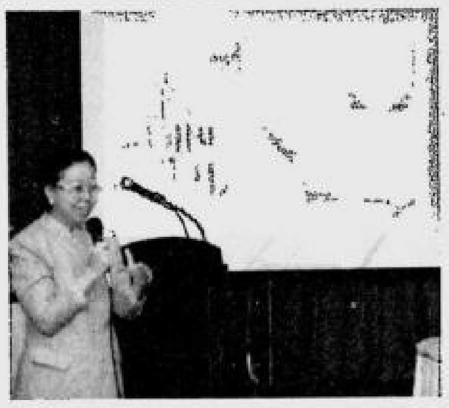
Introducing IPv6 to the Philippines will be of tremendous benefit to the country. It is taking off as a genuinely Asian technology, with main proponent - Japan - at the epicenter of IPv6 development. The very first Asian IPv6 Summit will be held in Manila this coming September. For the Philippines, attaining expertise in IPv6 is a prospect for more investments to be made in the country. Commissioner Damian Domingo Mapa, in his opening speech, said, "Technology is for imperative of progress. The more technology we use, the more competitive and productive we are as a nation."

Indeed, IPv6 has the revolutionary power to allow the Philippines to become an internationally competitive country. Armed with the full support of the government, it will not only be able to merit global recognition, but also aid in the improvements that need to be made within the country itself. Of this, Commissioner Mapa said, "Technology lately has been resurgent in how it can spread the results of its development to the rest of the country. We at CICT are very happy to participate with PLDT's initiative to disseminate information to the nation."

The arrival of IPv6 marks the culmination of combining government, scientific and technological expertise and will yield tremendous results for the Philippines. It is proof that technology truly has the potential to change the lives of every Filipino and take the country into the next generation. Buckle up.

INDUCTION OF NEW PRSP MEMBERS
The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) recently inducted two new members during its General Membership Meeting held at Le Boulevardier, InterContinental Manila. Shown inducting the new members (from left): PRSP president Milen Sision de Quiros, Full Circle Communications; inductees Janryll Fernandez, public affairs assistant director of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Ranulfo Habaluyas, media relations manager of Manila Water Company Inc and membership chair, Maria Lourdes Espina, corporate affairs manager of Total Philippines Corporation.

THE 2ND NATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILY BIBLE QUIZ



At the launch of The 2nd National Catholic Family Bible Quiz, secretariat chairperson Elvira Go delivers the Welcome Speech. The event held recently at the Szechuan Restaurant of the Aloha Hotel on Roxas Blvd began with a concelebrated mass celebrated by Bishop Arturo M. Bastes, DD together and several church luminaries: Archbishop Ramon C. Arguelles, DD; Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, DD; Bishop Nestor Carino, DD; Bishop Artemio L. Rillera, DD; Bishop Sofronio Bancud, DD; Bishop Antonio Cabajog, DD; Bishop Camilo Gregorio, DD; Bishop Joel Baylon, DD; and Bishop Precioso Cantillas, DD. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Permanent Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate, and Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, and Columbia International Food Products is now joined by the CBCP - Episcopal Commission on Youth and the Philippine Bible Society to make The 2nd National Catholic Family Bible Quiz even more memorable.

LIFE PROJECT AT ENCHANTED KINGDOM
The Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment (Life), created for the benefit of leukemia stricken child patients of the Children's Medical Center located at Banawe Ave., Quezon City, in collaboration with the Junior Chamber International Philippines-Manila (JCI-Manila), a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs, treated children to a day of fun, excitement and thrills at the Enchanted Kingdom. It is headed by Mark Yu, and supported by fellow Baby Jaycee-Manila members, Jerik Roderick V. Jacoba, James S. Ching and Ernest S. Tagle, and under the tutelage of JC director Kenrick Sy, with generous support from Enchanted Kingdom.

AUDI SHOWCASES ITS CARS AT MALL OF ASIA
PGA Cars, sole importer and distributor of Audi vehicles, recently exhibited its latest models at the Grand Opening of the SM Mall of Asia in the Central Business Park along Bay Boulevard, Pasay City. During the mall's opening week, the award-winning sedans proved to be the crowd drawers. For more information on the award wining Audi vehicles, call PGA Cars at 727-0381 up to 85 or e-mail sales@audi.ph. One may also visit the Audi Center located at 201 Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

GO NEGOSYO WEEKLY SHOW ON RPN 9
Aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners now have their weekly dose of inspiring and informative features via Go Negosyo, a one-hour program that airs every Monday at 10:30 p.m. on RPN Channel 9. Spawned by the popular Go Negosyo battlecry currently sweeping the country, the show hopes to spur more Filipinos to embrace an entrepreneurial culture and mindset. The Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE), which was created by eight prominent Filipino entrepreneurs led by Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Concepcion III, co-produce Go Negosyo with RPN-9. Shown during the Go Negosyo TV launch are (seated, from left): RPN assistant general manager Edith del Rosario, RPN president and CEO Mia Concio, Joey Concepcion, PCE executive director Imee Madarang; (standing, from left) RPN AGM-marketing and sales Sencio de la Cruz, Go Negosyo TV host Connie Sison, and RFM Corp VP-marketing Ramon Lopez.

Who needs cash when you have a Visa Debit card?

ITS PAYDAY AND THE LINES AT ATM terminals everywhere are endless. What would you do if you just need some cash to buy a couple of items at the grocery or pay for a well-deserved meal at your favorite restaurant?

Well, if you have a Visa Debit card then there's no longer any need to wait in line at ATM terminals. The Visa Debit card allows you to enjoy fast, easy, and convenient cashless shopping.

The Visa team, business partners and TV personalities recently came together at Bar One in Holiday Inn, Robinsons Galleria to launch Visa's newest TVC, featuring the Visa Debit card. Jim Dixon, Visa International country manager for the Philippines, presented to the media the benefits and convenience of having a Visa Debit card, as well as the concept behind the new TV commercial.

"When you use a Visa Debit card, you're accessing your own funds, at your own bank. It allows you to have greater financial control. It also provides greater convenience and security by allowing you to use it directly at the point of sale," Dixon said. "With the launch of our newest TVC we hope that more cardholders will become aware of the benefits that Visa Debit cards provide."

The TVC is a very simple demonstration of how a Visa Debit card works. Aside from allowing withdrawals at ATM machines, Visa Debit cards also allow the cardholder to make purchases at the point of sale. This provides added convenience and security by limiting the need to carry around large amounts of cash.

In the TVC, a sweet elderly woman patiently makes her way to the cashier and pulls out her Visa Debit card to pay for her groceries. The transaction goes smoothly. And as she is leaving the supermarket, the two young men are still stuck in the long line at the ATM machine. The TVC ends with the tag line: Visa Debit Card. All it takes to access your own money.

To allow the media to experience just how convenient and easy it is to use the Visa Debit Card, an exciting treasure hunt was held at the Robinsons Galleria mall. Using their Visa Debit cards, the teams purchased items at different establishments for the benefit of the Sta. Rita Orphanage.

During the event, Visa also launched the Visa Sweet Swipe promotion in partnership with Robinsons and Masterfoods. During the promotion period all Visa cardholders can redeem a free pack of M&M's chocolates for a P500 minimum purchase at any Robinson's Department Store or Supermarket.

China Bank drops HomePlus loan rate to only 9% p.a.

CHINA BANK MAKES BUILDing, buying, or renovating a home even more affordable as it further reduced its HomePlus loan rate and provides clients a choice to go variable with rate guard for terms of up to 10 years.

HomePlus loan rate for one year was reduced from 9.75 percent p.a. to 9 percent p.a. - the lowest in the industry.

Not only that, this very low fixed rate of 9 percent p.a. even has a rate guard of 11.25 percent p.a. for the 2nd to 5th year, and 11.50 percent p.a. for the 6th to 10th year.

"We're offering these options and low fixed rates to give our clients peace of mind that their amortization will not be adversely affected by rate fluctuations," shares VP for China Bank's consumer banking, Lilibeth R. Cariño. "Low rates plus rate protection mean more savings and lower amortizations for our clients".

The bank also offers other low fixed rates for clients who want to have the interest rate fixed longer as protection from future rate increases: 10.50 percent p.a. fixed for 2 years, 11 percent p.a. fixed for 3 years, and 11.25 percent p.a. fixed for 4 or 5 years, and 11.50 percent p.a. fixed for 6 to 10 years.

A China Bank HomePlus loan is for the purchase of a lot, a house and lot, a townhouse, or a condominium unit, it is also available for house construction, renovation, or to refinance an existing loan with another bank. To apply for a HomePlus loan or to get more information on the special rate, please call 885-5555, e-mail homeplus@chinabank.ph, or visit www.chinabank.ph.

China Bank also offers AutoPlus loan, a loan package for the purchase of brand new or second-hand vehicles. For a complete list of China Banks products and services, please visit www.chinabank.ph or any China Bank branch nationwide.

COSMETIQUE ASIA DONATES TO MMDA

Cosmetique Asia, the makers of Silka, Garden Secrets and Juicy Cologne answers the call of Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando for donations of deodorants for the Metro Gwapo Project that aims to promote good hygiene for public utility drivers. Photo shows Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando (right) checking the Silka whitening deodorant and Juicy cologne during the recent donation turnover for the Metro Gwapo project. Cosmetique Asia chief operating officer Alex Janssen Co together with brand models presented the products to the MMDA Chief.

SIA new Milan and Barcelona flights

SINGAPORE AIRLINES (SIA) AND SILKAIR PASSENGERS FROM MANILA, Cebu and Davao will soon enjoy convenient same day flight connections via Singapore to 2 of the world's most beautiful cities, Milan and Barcelona. Singapore Airlines will start this new thrice-weekly service on July 19. Onboard SIA's B777, one can enjoy la dolce vita via the airline's KrisWorld Entertainment System with the widest choice of entertainment options available on-demand while being pampered by SIA's award winning inflight service and World Gourmet Cuisine. Introductory airfares on SIA Economy Class to Milan or Barcelona from Manila starts from only USD788 subject to taxes and surcharges. The limited offer is valid for departure from Manila until Sept. 30 only. For more information and bookings log on to singaporeair.com, or call your travel agent or SIA Manila 756-8899, Cebu 232-6211, Davao 224-5608.

ProductFILES

Trangkaso info from Bioflu, the flu expert

THE SIGNS OF INFLUENZA, COMmonly known as "flu" or "trangkaso", are fever, muscle pain, headaches and fatigue. Along with these symptoms of flu, patients may also suffer from sore throat, dry cough and runny nose. All ages are prone to flu. The symptoms mentioned can be observed in both adults and children. Other symptoms may also be observed such as nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. These stomach symptoms are more apparent in children than adults. Most people have a difficulty differentiating common colds from flu since the symptoms of these two are almost the same. Influenza is specifically caused by the Influenza virus. Generally, patients of flu suffer more than patients of the common colds because their fatigue, fever, body aches and dry cough are more severe. In addition, influenza may also result to other health complications such as bacterial infections, pneumonia. It may even cause the victim to be hospitalized due to the severity of the flu. People who suffer from influenza often take a cocktail of medicines in order to treat symptoms like fever, body pains and clogged nose. But there are certain medicines containing triple ingredients such as a decongestant, an anti-pyretic, and anti-histamine that offer a powerful combination to relieve the symptoms of influenza specifically fever, body pains, clogged nose, sneezing and sore throat. An Anti-pyretic, such as Paracetamol, offers ease from body pains, headache, and fever that may be associated with flu and the common cold as well as the headache that commonly accompanies allergic rhinitis and sinusitis. A Decongestant, like Phenylpropanolamine HCl, offers relief of clogged nose. An antihistamine, such as Chlorphenamine Maleate ducreases the amount of sneezing, itchy nose and itchy watery eyes. Thus, one need not take a combination of medicines in order to treat influenza. Here are some precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses: 1. Cover ones mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. 2. Always wash ones hands especially after sneezing or coughing. Using soap or alcohol in cleaning ones hands is better as to ensure cleanliness. 3. One should avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay at home or avoid contact with others in order not to spread such illnesses.

DANCE band rocks Manila again / C3

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Preventing golf injuries

Part I–Basic prevention tips

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

NICK FALDO ONCE DESCRIBED the golf swing as "the turning of the upper body against the resistance of the lower body back and through." To hit the ball a longer distance, Jack Nicklaus advises, "Keep your back against the target as long as possible."

There is no doubt about it. The golf swing is an explosive, some say unnatural, athletic movement that places quite a bit of stress on the major joints of the body.

It has been said the more golf you play, the more chances you will experience some type of injury. Professional golfers play the most, and golf-related injuries are a way of life on the tournament circuit.

Many injuries can be avoided or minimized by keeping fit, taking basic precautions and practicing correct body alignment.

Simple program

Get fit to play your sport. Do not play your sport to get fit. At the barest minimum, stay strong and flexible with a simple exercise program.

No time to go to the gym? Follow the example of Gary Player who often did his basic program of calisthenics, stretching and free weights in his hotel room.

No time to workout? Try the time-efficient program used in Dr. Wayne Westcott's pioneering experiment with amateur and professional golfers. The 30-minute twice- or thrice-a-week program consists of 15 strength exercises and six stretches.

According to Westcott, "These 15 exercises address almost all of the muscles involved in the golf swing including those that produce driving power (leg groups), those that transfer power from the legs to the upper body (midsection and lower back groups), those that produce the swinging action (torso groups), those that provide club control (arm groups), those that provide club grip (forearm groups), and those that maintain head stability (neck groups)." For the complete details, go to http://www.healthy.net/scr/column.asp?id=371.

If you have more time, include exercises from yoga for greater flexibility and balance and Pilates or stability ball training for improved core strength and rotation.

Overuse, underuse

In golf, like other sports, some muscles will be overused and others underused. Both conditions can lead to injury. To make matters worse, golfers constantly swing only in one direction.

This just underscores the importance of having a solid exercise program to act as a "foundation" upon which to play your game with improved performance and decreased risk of injury.

Build up your golf time gradually to avoid the "too much, too soon" syndrome. Don't try to cram in three straight days of practice before a tournament. All those hours spent on the driving range and the golf course have to be balanced with rest periods to give muscles and joints time to recuperate.

Warm up before your game to increase joint mobility, loosen up tight muscles, and improve your score. Don't "waste" the first few holes by using them as your warm-up.

Warming up does not mean doing a few token static stretches. It means doing dynamic movements that simulate how your muscles and joints are going to be used in the game.

Here is a sample warm-up exercise by golf fitness expert Mike Pederson for PGAProfessional.Com: "Arm circles" increase blood flow to shoulders and prepare shoulders for a full range of motion swings that are fluid, easy and effortless on the first tee.

Raise arms out to side. Start with small circles with your hands and gradually increase. Hands should feel light. Keep speed of movement moderate. After 15 seconds, switch directions and repeat. Complete each direction twice.

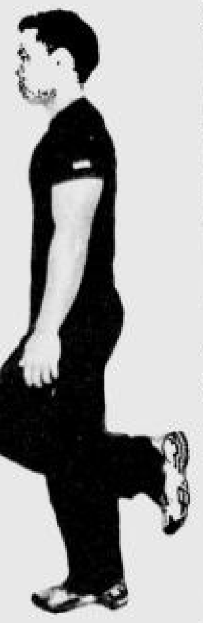
For the complete list of warm-up instructions and benefits to your game, log on to http://www.pgaprofessional.com/golf_tips_warmup.html.

Next week: A joint-by-joint look at preventing golf injuries.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

One-legged reaching squat



STRENGTHENS THE LEGS, buttocks and core muscles; challenges the balance.

Equipment:

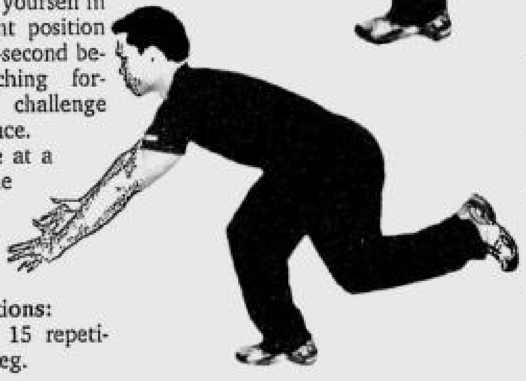
None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand on one leg.
2. Squat by taking your buttocks backward and arms forward as if reaching into a low shelf.
3. Straighten up to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Keep spine neutral—neither arching nor rounding.
2. Avoid bringing knees past your toes.
3. Hold yourself in the upright position for a split-second before reaching forward to challenge your balance.
4. Gaze at a point in the distance to help maintain balance.



Repetitions:

Ten to 15 repetitions per leg.

Tips for enhancing your well-being

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID (OFTEN REPEATED) about healthy living. Every day that passes reveals more information, better ways to do things with one end in mind—better health and greater well-being.

Here are a few morsels for you to digest:

1. Cut back on the toxins.

When your body breaks down, as in sickness, it is sending you a strong message—"toxin overload!"

Toxins are substances found in the air we breathe, the food we eat, the beverages we drink. These include processed foods, preservatives, food coloring, flavor enhancers/additives, pesticides, alcohol, tobacco.

What harm can toxins do? They attack body cells, disrupt their function and damage their structure.

And what about nonphysical toxins that can have physical effects? Negative, destructive, counter productive and demeaning thoughts and feelings can inflict as much harm as physical toxins. They are called stress.

So, today, cut back on the things that can only weaken your immune system.

2. Take time off from work.

Often, the world continues its frenetic pace but produces the opposite effect on you—slows you down. A contradiction? Yes, but true. It's called wear and tear. And a world-weary mind leads to a worn-out body.

If you give yourself breathing space, the self is able to recover naturally.

3. Make new friends—the healthy-living kind.

Draw up a list of health-friendly foods and drinks. Include the following: vegetables and fruits, nuts, legumes, whole grain fibers/carbohydrates, clean/pure water. Organic foods (pesticide-free) are also free from growth hormones, synthetic/chemical fertilizers.

The other list should include your own friends who fit this description: happy, positive, supportive, caring/giving. Think twice about friends who may possess the opposite qualities for they may not uplift you but, instead, bring you down.

4. Raise the bar.

By raising your standards, as in optimum health, your mind-set will change. It means the new outlook will influence your lifestyle choices, food and activity regimens, wants and needs. It will determine your shopping/buying habits, inspire your actions, change your attitudes and motivate you in ways that can only have one result—a stronger, happier you.

5. Be vigilant.

To achieve your goal in life, there must be discipline. If your antenna isn't up, your radar not sharp enough, laziness will set in. And that's when you resort to cutting corners, taking short cuts and indulging yourself.

This is a true story from a friend.

Determined to be rid of her craving for meat, she enrolled in a five-day detoxification program. After successfully completing the program, she decided to drop beef and pork from her eating plan.

It worked for three months until the Christmas season arrived. At a reunion, she decided to try just a few pieces of meat. After that, she immediately began back-sliding. She happily narrated this story at a party over a generous plate of roast pork.

6. Curb the cravings.

Find healthy substitutes. There is nothing wrong with a little pampering, giving in just a tiny bit to your cravings. If it's sugar you seek, look for sugar-free or lite sugar items. Try natural, not chemical type, sugar substitutes. Synthetic sugar has been linked to migraines, general body malaise and illness.

If it's salt you want, sea salt is better than table salt. And if you feel you have taken too much salt, flush it out of your system with water.

Regimen of the week

Flush: Drink two glasses of water upon waking up. Go for a 30-minute brisk walk on an empty stomach. Drink two or more glasses after your walk. Then have one glass of water 30 minutes before meal. Drink four more glasses during the day. That adds up to 11 glasses!

Affirmation

"I flush out the toxins in me beginning today!"

Love and light!

> Your outlook will influence your lifestyle choices

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Having healthy gums reduce risk of plaque build-up, dental caries and hypersensitivity.

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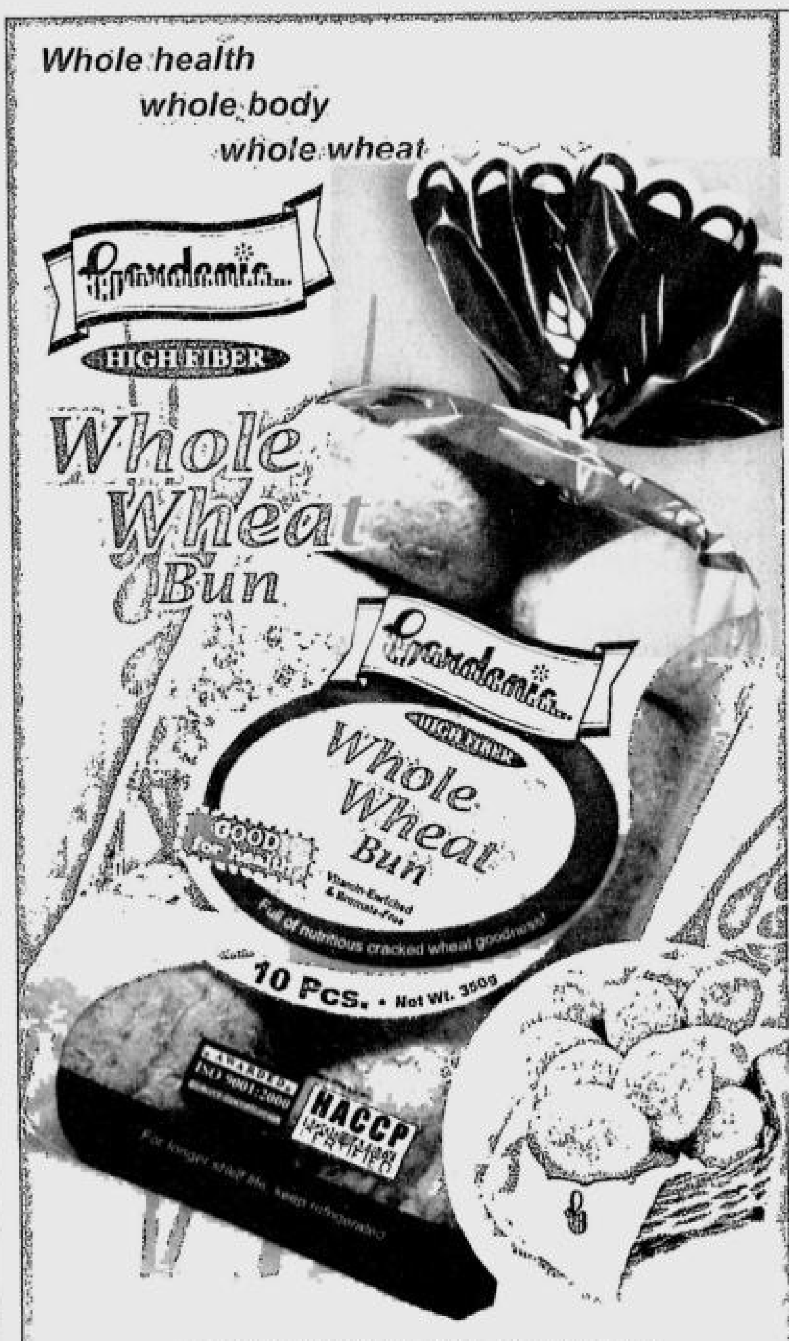


The difference is in cracked whole wheat.

It's a whole new bun to love! Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun has the wheat-honey taste with full-to-the-bite softness, plus the unique texture of lots of real cracked whole wheat bits included in wholesome wheat flour used in every bun. Enjoy it straight away, or toast it and release a distinct flavor.

And, with each bite, you can benefit from the body-strengthening power of the whole wheat kernel, complete with all the fiber, valuable nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals.

So to help keep the digestive system healthy, aid in the renewal and rejuvenation of body cells, and promote immunity against certain ailments, get into the really soft cracked whole wheat goodness of Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. It's whole health for the whole body everyday!

Cracked Whole Wheat: The Little Big Fighter

Wheat bread is popular among the diet and figure conscious, and health enthusiasts. More often than not, the value most recognized in wheat bread is fiber. Indeed, wheat bread is an excellent source of insoluble fiber that cleans the digestive system and helps reduce bad cholesterol in the system. But there's more to wheat bread than just fiber, especially if it contains cracked whole wheat like Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun.

Cracked whole wheat means the whole wheat kernel is used; the bran, germ and endosperm. All these are turned into bits that are included in the whole wheat flour used in Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. To fully appreciate the nutrition in wheat kernels, it's best to know its anatomy:

- Bran – The multi-layered outer skin of the kernel. It contains antioxidants, iron, zinc, copper, magnesium, B vitamins, fiber and valuable nutrients
- Germ – The embryo. It contains B vitamins, vitamin E, antioxidants, valuable nutrients and unsaturated fats
- Endosperm – The germ's food supply. It contains starchy carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals.

Nutritious

By using the whole kernel, all the nutrition found in wheat is harnessed to lend the body its full nutritive value. All the fiber, valuable nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, carbohydrates and unsaturated fats come together not only to keep one's figure trim, but also to have the potential to give support to the body against certain diseases. Small but terrible, as they say. The miniscule cracked whole wheat kernel is truly a big fighter and a helpful ally for one's total well being

Lesser food intake

Cracked whole wheat may be effective in addressing overweight condition. Because cracked whole wheat helps satisfy hunger for longer periods, it results in lesser food intake.

Helps decrease bad cholesterol

Heart disease can also be kept in check with cracked whole wheat. Together with a low fat diet, it may help decrease bad cholesterol that can cause heart attacks.

Good for diabetics

Cracked whole wheat, with a low fat diet, may also help improve the body's glucose response and decrease insulin sensitivity that may help diabetics

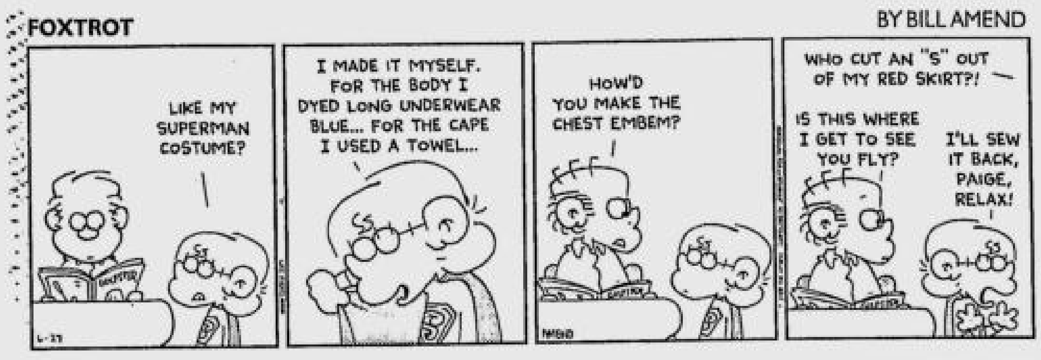
Helps lower risk of some cancers

Because cracked whole wheat is rich in antioxidants, it may help protect cells against oxidative damage which may possibly lower the risk of hormone-related cancers like breast cancer.

Now consider the deliciously soft and nutritious Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. You can see and taste it because real cracked whole wheat bits are present and dot each bun with all their goodness and health-strengthening properties. So bite into deliciously soft and nutritious cracked whole wheat goodness for whole health for the whole body with Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun.

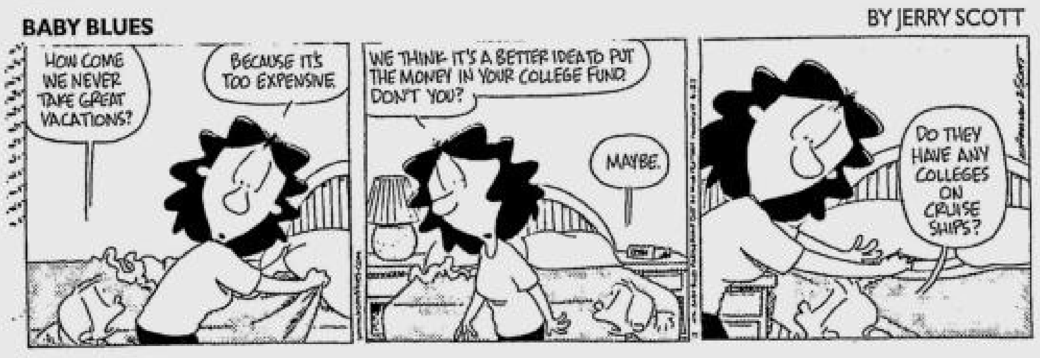
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


LIKE MY SUPERMAN COSTUME?
I MADE IT MYSELF. FOR THE BODY I DYED LONG UNDERWEAR BLUE... FOR THE CAPE I USED A TOWEL...
HOW'D YOU MAKE THE CHEST EMBEM?
WHO CUT AN "S" OUT OF MY RED SKIRT?!
IS THIS WHERE I GET TO SEE YOU FLY?
I'LL SEW IT BACK, PAIGE, RELAX!
6-27

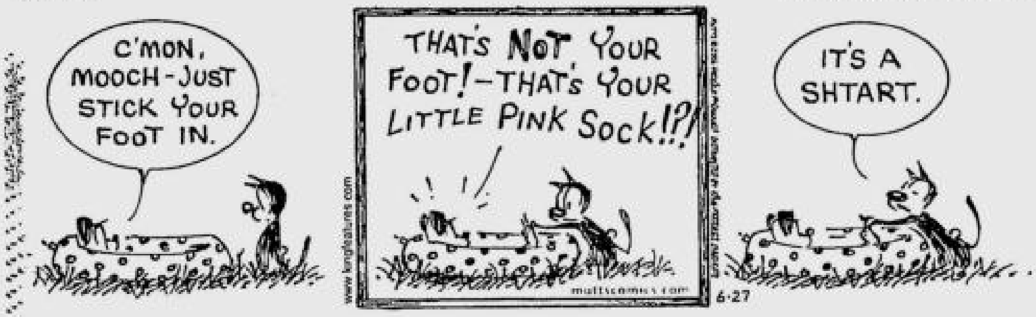
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW COME WE NEVER TAKE GREAT VACATIONS?
BECAUSE IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.
WE THINK IT'S A BETTER IDEA TO PUT THE MONEY IN YOUR COLLEGE FUND. DON'T YOU?
MAYBE.
DO THEY HAVE ANY COLLEGES ON CRUISE SHIPS?

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


C'MON, MOOCH - JUST STICK YOUR FOOT IN.
THAT'S NOT YOUR FOOT! - THAT'S YOUR LITTLE PINK SOCK!?!
IT'S A SHTART.
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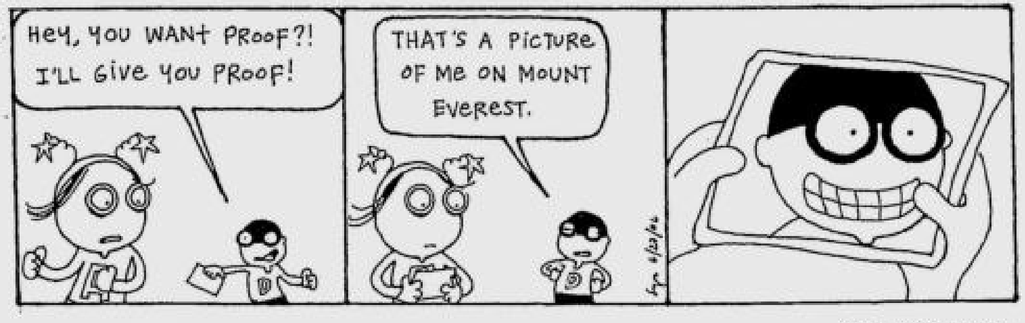
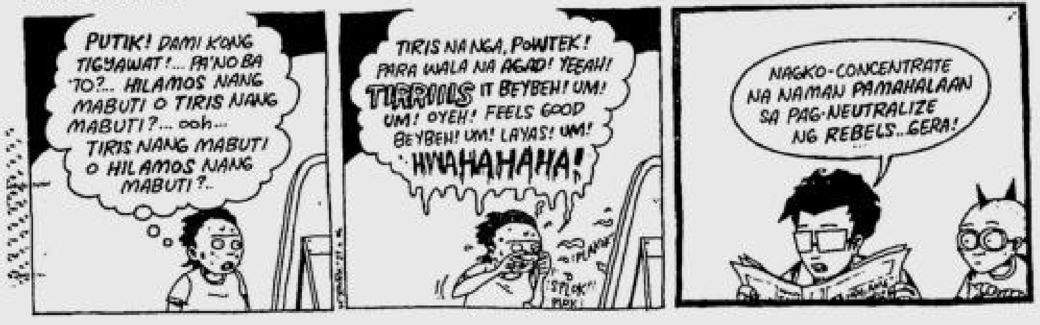
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, YOU WANT PROOF?! I'LL GIVE YOU PROOF!
THAT'S A PICTURE OF ME ON MOUNT EVEREST.

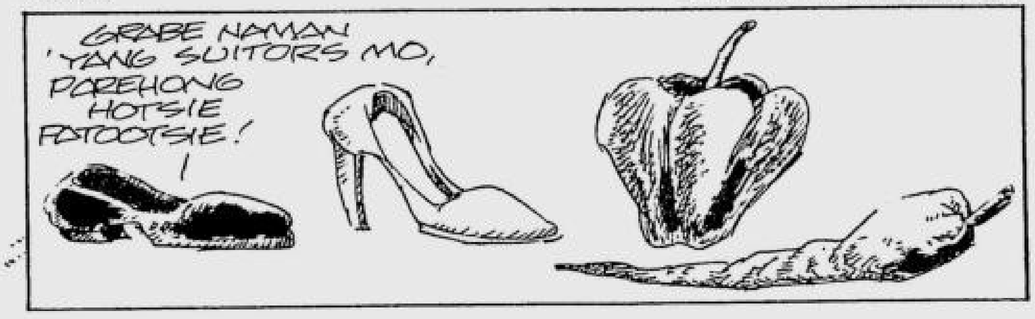
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK! DAMI KONG TIGYAWAT!... PA'NO BA 'TO?.. HILAMOS NANG MABUTI O TIRIS NANG MABUTI?... ooh... TIRIS NANG MABUTI O HILAMOS NANG MABUTI?..
TIRIS NA NGA, POWTEK! PARA WALA NA AGAD! YEEAH! TIRRIIS IT BEYBEH! UM! UM! OYEH! FEELS GOOD BEYBEH! UM! LAYAS! UM! HWAHAHAHA!
"SPLOK" PAK!
NAGKO-CONCENTRATE NA NAMAN PAMAHALAAN SA PAG-NEUTRALIZE NG REBELS..GERA!

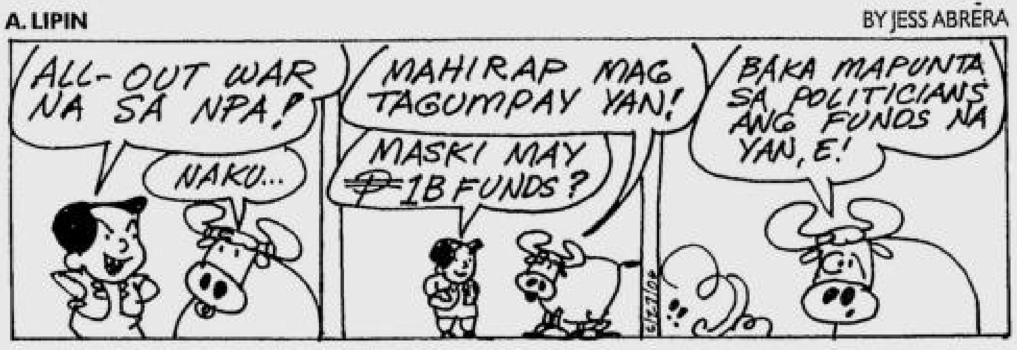
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GRABE NAMAN 'YANG SUITORS MO, PAREHONG HOTSIE PATOOTSIE!

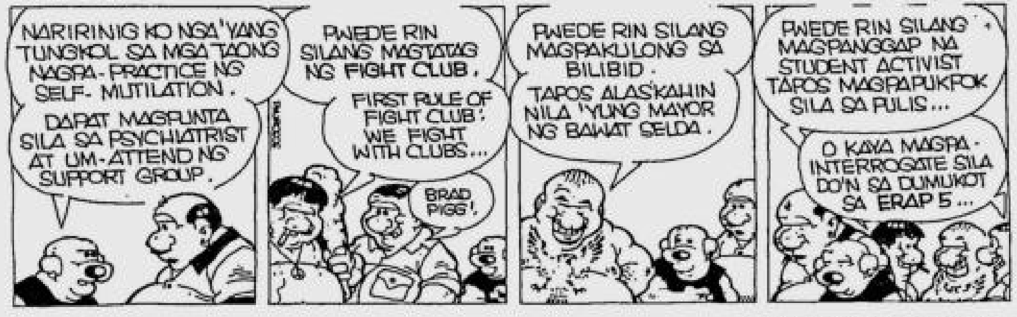
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALL-OUT WAR NA SA NPA!
NAKU...
MAHIRAP MAG TAGUMPAY YAN!
MASKI MAY ₱1B FUNDS?
BAKA MAPUNTA SA POLITICIANS ANG FUNDS NA YAN, E!

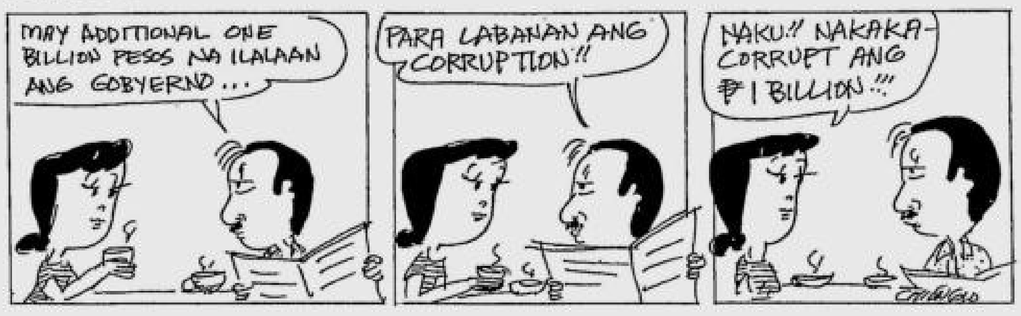
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NARIRINIG KO NGA 'YANG TUNGKOL SA MGA TAONG NAGPA-PRACTICE NG SELF- MUTILATION.
DAPAT MAGPUNTA SILA SA PSYCHIATRIST AT UM-ATTEND NG SUPPORT GROUP.
PWEDE RIN SILANG MAGTATAG NG FIGHT CLUB.
FIRST RULE OF FIGHT CLUB: WE FIGHT WITH CLUBS...
BRAD PIGG!
PWEDE RIN SILANG MAGPAKULONG SA BILIBID.
TAPOS ALAS'KAHIN NILA 'YUNG MAYOR NG BAWAT SELDA.
PWEDE RIN SILANG MAGPANGGAP NA STUDENT ACTIVIST TAPOS MAGPAPUKPOK SILA SA PULIS...
O KAYA MAGPA-INTERROGATE SILA DO'N SA DUMUKOT SA ERAP 5...

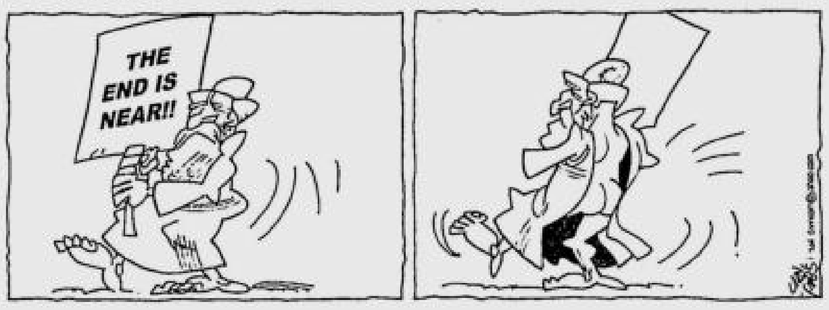
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAY ADDITIONAL ONE BILLION PESOS NA ILALAAN ANG GOBYERNO...
PARA LABANAN ANG CORRUPTION!!
NAKU!! NAKAKA-CORRUPT ANG ₱1 BILLION!!!

DIVINE COMEDY

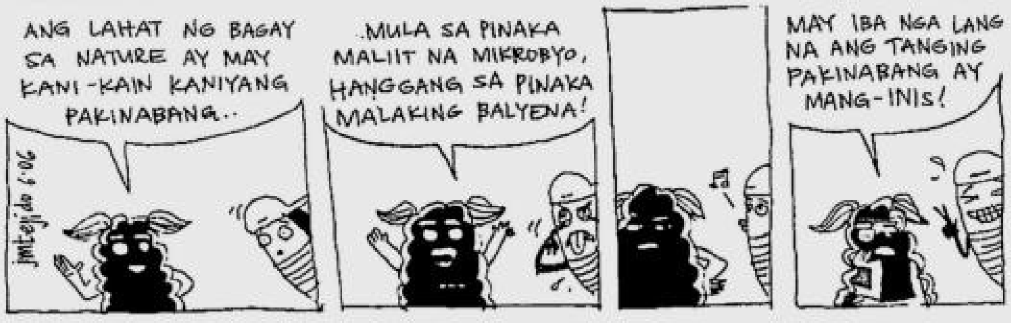
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE END IS NEAR!!

THE REASON WHY MANY PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN DOOM PROPHETS

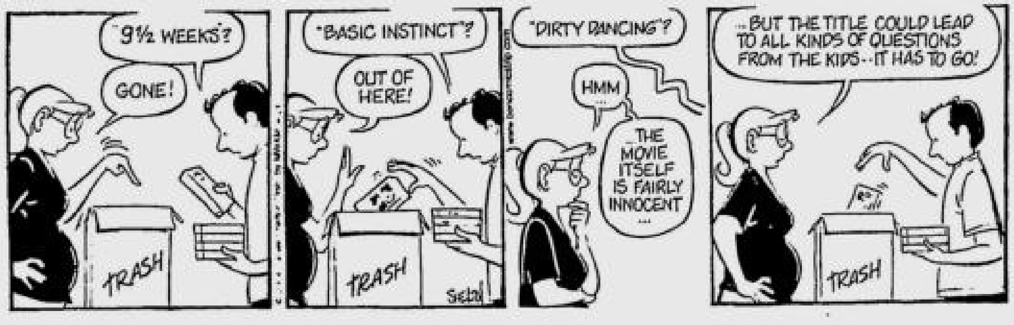
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG LAHAT NG BAGAY SA NATURE AY MAY KANI-KAIN KANIYANG PAKINABANG..
MULA SA PINAKA MALIIT NA MIKROBYO, HANGGANG SA PINAKA MALAKING BALYENA!
MAY IBA NGA LANG NA ANG TANGING PAKINABANG AY MANG-INIS!
jmtejido 6·06

BEN

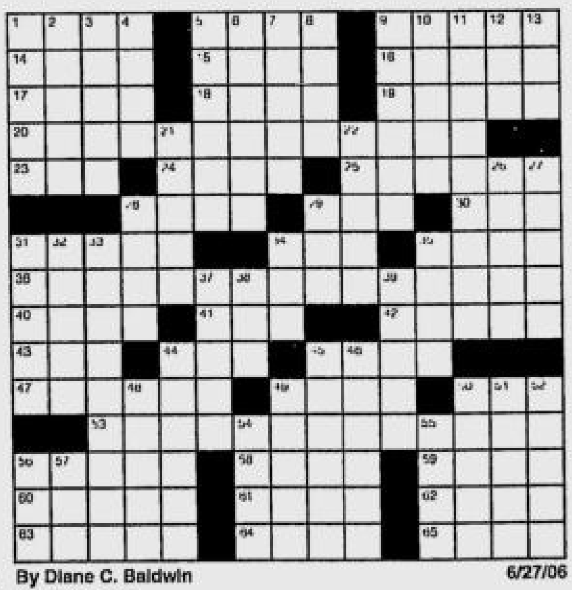
BY DANIEL SHELTON


"9½ WEEKS"?
GONE!
"BASIC INSTINCT"?
OUT OF HERE!
"DIRTY DANCING"?
HMM
THE MOVIE ITSELF IS FAIRLY INNOCENT
...BUT THE TITLE COULD LEAD TO ALL KINDS OF QUESTIONS FROM THE KIDS--IT HAS TO GO!
TRASH

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pull out a Peacemaker
5 Stirs in
9 Fruit pressed for oil
14 Hoarfrost
15 Force into a corner
16 Traffic diverters
17 Old Nick's knack
18 Threw with effort
19 Makes reference to
20 See what I mean?
23 Hog housing
24 Precisely defined quantity
25 Verdi works
28 Actor Arkin
29 Attempt
30 Tumbler rim
31 Ghana's capital
34 Public transport
35 Feline rumble
36 How dare you!
40 Intentions
41 Cry's partner?
42 Covered in marsh grass
43 __ gotcha now!
44 Game counter
45 Clod busters
47 Bank employee
49 Brass element
50 Mooncalf
53 What about this?
56 Cops' regular routes
58 City in Ohio or Peru
59 Wolf's shelter
60 Mexican pal
61 Persia, today
62 One of a sailing trio
63 Second largest Great Lake
64 Patch up
65 In a fresh way

DOWN
1 Bottom-of-the-barrel stuff
2 Metal fasten
3 Friendliness
4 Lash imprint
5 Greek goddess of wisdom
6 Visit informally
7 Lifeboat holder
8 On __ (without guarantee)
9 Fill up
10 Saint-Nazaire's river
11 Break in the action
12 Two-finger sign
13 Slalom starter?
21 Luau dances
22 Body trunks
26 Made public
27 Atomizer output
28 Word after liberal or martial
29 Wide, clumsy boat
31 Be in store for
32 Onion-like herb
33 Dromedary fur fabric
34 Quill
35 Pastry items
37 In that place
38 Tight embrace
39 __-Roman wrestling
44 Individual
45
49 Voltaire drama
50 Once more
51 Polish up
52 Barn bedding
54 Singer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By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

6/27/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	S	P	S	■	S	P	A	■	M	A	T	C	H
I	N	T	R	O	■	A	R	M	■	I	D	A	H	O
O	N	Y	O	U	R	W	A	Y	■	C	O	K	E	S
■	■	■	T	R	E	E	D	■	B	A	R	E	S	T
M	O	H	E	■	A	R	O	M	A	■	E	A	T	S
A	B	U	S	E	D	■	■	■	C	L	A	S	P	■
Y	E	N	T	A	■	S	O	C	K	S	■	O	N	A
B	S	A	■	G	E	T	L	O	S	T	■	W	E	B
F	F	L	■	L	A	R	D	Y	■	R	U	D	D	Y
■	■	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	M	O	P	E	D	S
T	U	N	A	■	E	P	S	O	M	■	A	R	A	M
I	N	G	R	I	D	■	A	M	M	A	N	■	■	■
T	I	N	E	D	■	S	K	E	D	A	D	D	L	E
A	T	O	N	E	■	H	E	N	■	R	U	D	E	R
N	E	W	T	S	■	E	S	S	■	E	P	E	E	S

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You easily command respect. In fact, you frequently are responsible for others or take on their affairs in some way. In large measure, this is because you have a solid, decisive, no-nonsense quality about you. You're well-organized, and groups value your input. A major change could take place this year (perhaps as significant as around 1997).

Birthdate of: Tobey Maguire, actor; Isabelle Adjani, actress; Madylin Sweeten, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're still trying to figure out what you want to be when you grow up. The last time you felt sure about this was in the early 1990s.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Home, land and security are important to you. Continue to shore up these areas of your life. Renovate, repair or move. Establish a base for yourself in the world

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): At this time in your life, you're in a state of flux. You could be changing jobs; you could be changing homes; you could be doing both!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Ever since 2003, it's been a new ballgame for you. Basically, you're reinventing yourself. Now you're trying to figure out what really matters in life.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Ever since last year, your world has changed considerably. Essentially, you're in a new sandbox. That's why you're not sure what to wear. Even your image is changing!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): For a variety of reasons, most of you are letting go of things, people, places and possessions. Letting go is not loss—it is freedom!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This continues to be a good time for you, especially with respect to earning money. Pull out all the stops. You'll enjoy buying beautiful things this year.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fortunate and powerful time for you. All your hard work now pays off. A time of harvest shows you where you made good decisions—and not. (Gulp.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Ever since 2001, you've been out of the gate and running. Now is a time of serious preparation. Work hard for a time of success around 2007-2011.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Around 1989 and the early '90s, your life took a new direction. In 2003, your focus on external achievements became stronger. This year your popularity grows. Accept all invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Partnerships have been challenging in the past two years. Some have bit the dust. Nevertheless, you are moving on to bigger and better things. (Believe this.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Although this is a time of hard work for you now, areas related to travel, publishing and higher education are beautifully blessed this year. Work hard—play hard!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	6	3		1			4	
8						7	2	6
5					6		8	
				8		4		
6			2	3	7			5
		1		6				
	9		3					8
1	5	2						3
	7			5		9	1	

Difficulty Level ★★

6/27

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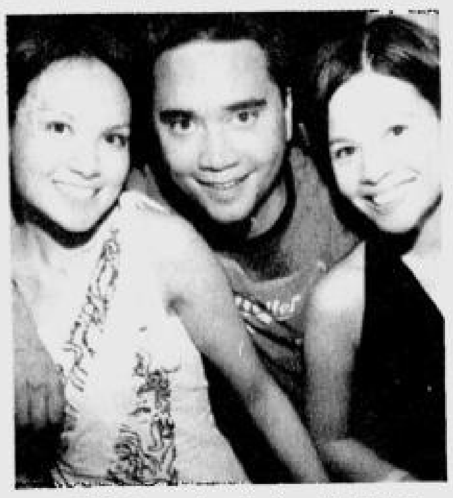
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	2	8	7	5	3	4	1
1	5	3	9	2	4	7	6	8
8	4	7	6	1	3	9	5	2
4	8	9	3	5	2	1	7	6
6	2	5	7	8	1	4	3	9
7	3	1	4	9	6	2	8	5
5	9	8	1	4	7	6	2	3
3	1	4	2	6	8	5	9	7
2	7	6	5	3	9	8	1	4

Difficulty Level ★


CRISTINA Dragon Locsin, Smart's shaker and achiever Tom Valderama and his pretty, pretty wife Tricia

COOLING it on a hot night. Anton Barretto of Pineapple and talented Astrud Crisologo

DELICIOUS to look at, delightful to know. Handsome Pandy Lichaoco and gorgeous Faith Amigo

CHEESE Ledesma of Boracay's world-class Nami Resort and her man, Joel Ong

CONCERT FANS. Andy Cruz and Erika Fife

EYE-CATCHER Angel Jacob grooves at Chicane's concert.

THE FABULOUS group: Chicane!

ARTIST Norman Crisologo and Michele Quizon

BEAUTIFUL power couple behind the unmatched Team Bigfish, Domini and Joanne "Josa" Primero

TRIXIE Dee, young daughter of Bigfish's Pixie Sheah

Euphoria at the World Trade Center

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcach

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

AFTER HOSTING A MEAN EASTER weekender in Boracay at Slinky Trans-Atlantik and Hed Kandi Beach House, Team Bigfish's lovable party couple, **Domini** and **Joanne Primero**, brought back the much-awaited Chicane in *Manille*, *palanggas*, with the all-out support of Addict Mobile and Nokia, *natch*.

Helping the couple was their dynamic partner, adorable **Pixie Cheah**, who took over the late DJ TC's task of booking international dance acts.

Après four long years, Chicane was back. Dance music enthusiasts were in euphoria at the World Trade Center waiting for Chicane's set.

Believe *moi*, *palanggas*, it was absolutely mind-boggling. It was like a reunion, with familiar old-school faces from Casino Filipino four years ago and today's hip new breed of clubbers dressed up so stylishly. Everyone just wanted to be there.

I don't think I've ever seen the WTC that packed—8,000 plus concert-goers that the air-conditioning system just couldn't handle the mob!

Kevin Ruiz's wicked opening set did a helluva job warming up the crowd with his trademark New York "deep tribal house." Adding to that the Grade-A, world-class production of the unmatchable Bigfish crispy clear sound system, spectacular decor and lighting from all angles—it was enough to make everyone go into hysterics over Chicane, dahlings.

Chicane set the stage on fire by opening with its latest single "Turning Corners." It opened our minds (or our ears?) to a unique direction with its latest hit, "Stoned in Love," featuring **Tom Jones** on vocals.

From the faces of the mob, it seemed tons of people were surprised by Chicane's change in style. But, naturally, this is to be expected from every unique artist.

Then it inserted classics dating back to 1997 then its 2000 big hit, "No Ordinary Morning." That got the WTC rocking beyond intensity nine, as everyone wildly moved to a sole groove, connecting with everyone in the crowd.

The fab show was a hybrid of full-fledged concert and swinging dance event—different, but definitely great, *palanggas*.

Naturellement, it would not have been possible without Addict Mobile, Nokia and MYX. Kudos to all the guys, most especially to the undisputed leader in international dance events promotions, Team Bigfish, *natch*. We had a blast!

Beauty spot

Stylish *Manille*'s hair mecca, Basement Salon, has swung open the doors to its new place for the chic Ortigas market, at the ground floor of a two-story building in the Shangri-La Plaza Mall complex, *palanggas*.

"From the dragon dances in the morning to the cocktails and hair-trend show in the evening, it definitely was an exciting day," said Basement Salon's creative director **Stefan Wilczynski**, who was guided by a *feng-shui* expert in choosing an opening date for the latest beauty oasis.

Wizards from Basement Salon, led by Stefan, mesmerized the chi-chi crowd with the hair trends for this year. Models had looks ranging from long, free-flowing tresses with romantic waves, to glammed-up coifs and avant-garde cuts, each successfully executed with the help of Davines Styling and Finishing Tools for Wizards, super effective products that are easy for "the professional stylist, as well as the regular customer" to use.

You can have massages, hair-removal treatments, plus more in this fab salon designed by **Noel Bernardo.** More importantly, you can experience the precision hair cutting Basement Salon has been known for, *palanggas*.

"When it comes to pampering—from your tresses down to your toenails—we'll do it all for you," Stefan W. assured us. "We are combining German skills and techniques with world-class Filipino service and creativity. This is going to be the best salon this side of Manila."

For appointments, call 6382222 or 6389999. Anything for the sake of beauty, *'di bala, palanggas?*

Fundraising movie

Get set for an evening of love, hope and inspiration for children assisted by the awesome, golden-hearted Make-A-Wish Foundation (MAWF). "First Night—a Superman Returns" is a fundraising movie happening by leading creative solutions and design company Ethos Strategy to mark their first anniversary.

"We at Ethos committed ourselves to appreciate and recount our achievements through worthwhile endeavors," says **Mannix Peña**, Ethos executive creative director. "'First Night' is our way of giving back to others and showing our gratitude. We are happy for this chance to share our blessings with the children of Make-A-Wish Foundation."

This must-go-to movie event, *palanggas*, will happen tomorrow, June 28, at Cinema 4 of the Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati.

Believing "there is a hero in everyone of us," Ethos encourages clients, friends, invitees and sponsors to "awaken their inner hero." The benefit show aims to help grant the wishes of 12 deserving children of MAWF.

"Call it serendipity, but we at Make-A-Wish were planning to hold the premiere night of 'Superman Returns' to raise funds, but limited resources stopped us. Then came Mannix inviting us to celebrate their anniversary with them," said MAWF fundraising officer **Angelica Marucut**.

With offices all over the globe, MAWF dedicates itself to granting wishes for these beautiful children who are terminally ill, *palanggas*. Please give. The kids need it, *palanggas*.

MANNIX PEÑA, executive creative director of Ethos Creative Solutions, returns to Manila after supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Canada for four years.

ROCKY Orejola, Basement Salon senior stylist, and hotshots Sen. Manny Villar and former Sen. Freddie Webb

MAN of the hour Stefan Wilczynski, creative director of Basement Salon; dashing Tom Zita of Shangri-La; Sergio Cavazzana, Davines business development manager for Asia; and Chester Co, Davines operations director

WORKASONIC Nene Lichauco, Bel-Air Barangay Chair

ARMAND Valencia, Davines finance director, and Audra Lucero, Davines sales and marketing director

HEAD-TURNER Pinky Webb, fab host of Basement Salon's grand opening at Shangri-La Plaza Edsa

GORGEOUS models Bubbles Paraiso and Phoemela Baranda, with Fritz Webb

LONGER hair for good-looking Troy Montero, with Jason Webb and GC Santiago

KATRINA Lichauco

Telepathic communication is quite common

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

HERE'S AN INTERESTING letter from reader Jay Ramos relating his remarkable psychic connection with a girl he met recently.

"The first time I went out with this new friend, whom I shall call Samantha, it was a pleasant but largely uneventful meeting. The second time around, though, something strange occurred that really caught me by surprise.

"The night before our meeting, I was reading a book when a question suddenly came to mind, for no apparent reason. I found it interesting, so I told myself I would ask Samantha the question the following day when we met.

"However, it completely escaped my mind until, to my utter surprise, she brought it up during our conversation! And verbatim, too! I was absolutely dumbfounded, but I simply ignored it, thinking it was mere coincidence (although I don't believe in coincidences) and let it pass.

"Then stranger things occurred during our subsequent meetings that just left me scratching my head.

"One time, we were having a casual Q&A session where she asked me two things. The first was: 'If you were to stalk anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?' I thought hard and told her I couldn't think of anyone at the moment. While this was going on, the name of the late Maningning Miclat kept registering in my head for reasons I couldn't quite comprehend.

"And then, lo and behold, she asked: 'Do you know Maningning Miclat?' Again, I was dumbfounded. And she, too, was dumbfounded when I told her I was thinking of Maningning Miclat.

"Her second question went like this: 'If you were to organize a concert, where would it be held?' I gave her a quick response, but at the back of my head I was thinking of a concert staged on a barge floating on Manila Bay. When I asked her the same question, she replied, 'On a body of water!'

"When we exchange text messages, we have this uncanny ability to read each other's minds! We frequently text simultaneously, with only a split-second difference, and with the same threads of thought. Also, we have this strange ability to second-guess each other's texts. I answer her questions before she even asks, and she also 'reads' ahead what I'm about to send. Do you think she's my soul mate?"

Not strange

It is obvious you two have strong telepathic rapport. You can read each other's minds. This is not really as strange or rare as it may seem. A good number of people experience this but consider it mere coincidence.

Telepathy, or the mental ability to read a person's thoughts, is, in fact, the most common of all so-called psychic powers. This is usually strongest among persons who are emotionally or psychologically close to each other, such as spouses, lovers, parent and child, close friends.

However, even entirely unrelated persons, such as in your case, can and do experience strange telepathic rapport with each other due, perhaps, to past-life connection or soul memory. You may have been related closely to each other in previous lives. This does not mean, however, that you are soul mates.

We may not realize it, but human beings are intuitively and subconsciously in constant communication with one another, as well as with all levels of creation. Once in a while, such communication reaches the conscious level and we become aware of it. This usually happens when we are completely relaxed and in a playful mood, or when we are about to go to sleep, or when we are in deep meditation.

The first scientific study on telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition was made by Dr. J.B. Rhine at Duke University in North Carolina in early '40s until his death in the '60s. His research was then continued by his wife.

The couple proved the existence of natural telepathic powers in humans. It was Dr. Rhine who coined the term Extra Sensory Perception, or ESP.

ESP is an unfortunate choice because it implies some people have it and others do not. But the fact is everybody has ESP. It is a natural faculty or ability of our mind. That's why so many people experience it at one time or another in their life.

Manifestations of ESP (like telepathy, clairvoyance or precognition) are not as rare as most people think. It's just that many do not want to talk of such experiences for fear of being ridiculed or considered naive, if not weird.

In the Basic ESP and Intuition Development Seminar I conduct regularly, I teach participants how to transmit and receive thoughts telepathically, among other things. On the average, about 60-70 percent of them are able to demonstrate successfully such an ability.

When telepathy repeatedly happens spontaneously, as in the case of Samantha and you, it can really be mind-blowing.

Telepathy is the most common of all so-called psychic powers

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P1,806 ✋

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P2,028 ✋

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18x optical zoom
360x digital zoom
P2,331 ✳ ϟ

Elura 90
1.3 megapixels
20x optical zoom
400x digital zoom
P2,497 ✳ ϟ

Optura 50
2.2 megapixels
10x optical zoom
200x digital zoom
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Optura 60
2.2 megapixels
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Wellness through yoga

MANY PEOPLE ARE DISCOVERING the wonderful benefits of yoga.

In fact, even elite athletes are now using yoga to complement their training and lengthen the life of their careers. Stretching the muscles and making them more flexible and resilient are invaluable in preventing injury and reducing post-training soreness.

Yoga has also been found to help eliminate toxins in the body by stimulating vital organs and improving circulation in the various systems.

Corey Wills, former Australian competitive surfer/lifeguard now a yoga teacher for Myoga, said though his body was strong, he was continually getting injured. He turned to Iyengar yoga (a form of Hatha Yoga) to rehabilitate his overworked body and alleviate his back and knee pain, balancing his strength with flexibility.

Yoga, he added, also helped release physical, mental and emotional tension from the body.

Raya Mananquil, co-teacher of Myoga, said she encouraged students to treat their sessions like a meditation in movement. As a result, many of them felt more calm and centered afterwards.

Yoga, the teachers said, resulted in a more tranquil and peaceful outlook, and a strong healthy body.

To do yoga correctly, a person needs the right equipment like "sticky" mats that provide traction. The mat, when folded, becomes a comfortable padding for the head. At the end of your class, the soft cushioning of the mat is appropriate for the relaxation pose called savasana. Cleaning the mat is easy because it uses a rubberized material.

Other essential props are yoga blocks, for those who need extra support.

With the modern mats and blocks, today's yoga practitioners can do their exercises in greater safety and comfort.

Toby's Sports, which carries the mats and blocks, is offering free yoga sessions with Wills and Mananquil on June 30, 5-7 p.m.; and July 1, 4-6 p.m., at Toby's Sports Arena, 3/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Malls Makati.

Myoga offers private yoga sessions for individuals or small groups at home or at the office. Call 0917-9777835 or e-mail myoga8@yahoo.com.

INVERSIONS. Wills in *sirsasana* or headstand and Mananquil in *sarvangasana* or shoulderstand

WILLS in *ardha chandrasana* or half-moon pose

PHOTOS BY DR. MARK DIMALANTA

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve

Take Charge Doc!

What treatment options are available for prostate cancer patients?

Prostate cancer (CaP) is the fourth leading cause of death among males. Prevalence of prostate cancer increases with age. Risk factors are race (African-Americans), family history, high dietary intake and cadmium exposure which is found in cigarettes. Presence of symptoms such as difficulty in urination, low back pain, weight loss and anemia often suggests locally advanced or metastatic disease. Several modalities are now available for prostate cancer treatment like **Radical Prostatectomy** or removal of the whole prostate gland which is the gold standard for treatment of localized or locally advanced prostate cancer. While **Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy** (IMRT) allows high dose of radiation to conform to the target volume of tumor with greater sparing of the surroundings normal tissue. In **Brachytherapy** a radioactive seed is placed into the prostate tumor. **Cryotherapy** uses freeze-thaw cycles for tissue destruction of the tumor while reducing damage to surrounding tissues. For metastatic CaP, **hormonal therapy** with or without radiation therapy improves survival rate of patients. And lastly, watchful waiting or expectant management can be offered to patients with low risk prostate cancer.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Jo Ben M. Chua. Dr. Job as he commonly addressed by his patients specializes in Urology. He graduated from University of Sto. Tomas in 1996 and later took his specialization training for Urology at East Ave Medical Center in 2004. He is a member of the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Urological Association. MEDICard members may visit him for consultation services at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Room 307, Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 12 noon and at M-Tech Medical Hospital, Tuesdays to Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 5th floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Trunkline: [illegible] Fax No.: 884-8720; 810-3806 Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2944 (Globe & Touch Mobile) or 4627 (Smart & Talk N' Text) E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

Cebu hosts medical congress

THE CEBU INSTITUTE of Medicine Alumni Association Inc. (CIMAAI) will host a medical world congress July 20-22 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel (WCCH).

Theme of the congress is "Looking Beyond 50 Years of Medical Excellence."

The meeting kicks off the school's celebration of its golden anniversary in 2007.

Topics to be covered include Winning the Battle on Aging: Laser, Botox, etc.; Intrauterine Insemination; Depression; When Arteries Clog: To Medicate, to Dilate, to Operate?; The Scientific Basis of Music as Medicine; Painless Hemorrhoidectomy; Resection of Liver Cancers: Curative or Misplaced Enthusiasm?; Care of the Cancer Survivors, and many more.

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